

& TIMES

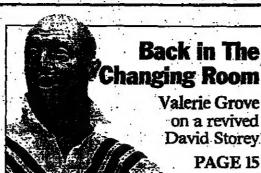
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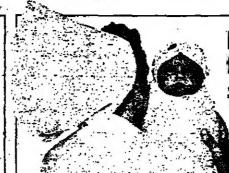
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9 1996



EAT OUT FOR £5 400 top restaurants

Affordable meals with a restaurant to suit every taste. Details and voucher' PAGE II





Babies for sale

Scandal of the East-West trade in children PAGE 14



On the

Guide to the 1996 Corporate

Party leaders join forces as they go to the country again

By MICHAEL HORNSBY COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

IN A rare show of unity, the leaders of the three main political parties have written a joint letter to The Times to express their support for the protection of the

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, deliberately echo the language of a similar, though perhaps even more remarkable letter published in *The Times*. on May 8, 1929, and signed by Stanley Baldwin, then Prime Minister, Ramsay

MacDonald and Lloyd George. Mr Major and his political foes agreed to set aside their differences at the request of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), which inspired the earlier letter. They write: During the

many problems of public importance that we gladly take the opportunity of showing that on one subject we speak with a united voice - namely, in advocating the protection of our countryside in its rich

personality and character."
Fiona Reynolds, director of the CPRE. said: "We asked the three leaders if they would write a letter in the same spirit as that of 1929 to mark our seventieth anniversary, which we are celebrating this year. We are delighted they agreed to

The man credited with the 1929 coup is Sir Patrick Abercrombie, a pioneering town and country planner who three years earlier had played a leading role in founding the CPRE along with Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect of the Italian-



Baldwin persuaded Lloyd George and Ramsay Macdonald to sign a similar letter

Ms Reynolds said: "It all seems to have been arranged through gentlemanly con-tacts behind the scenes. Baldwin, a keen

fantasy of Portmeirion in North country lover, is thought to have persuaded the other two leaders to sign." One of the few written references to the letter is in the minutes of an executive committee meeting held on April 24, 1929, which

notes that an appeal for funds supported by a leading article had appeared in *The Times* that morning.

Sadie Ward, the archivist, said: "The secretary of the meeting then read out a letter which it was hoped would be signed by Baldwin and the other two leaders in support of the appeal. This appeared in The Times on May 8. We know that Abercrumbie had been trying to get such a letter published for some time."

The only other known time that the leaders of the three parties have sent a letter to the Editor was on July 6, 1981, when Margaret Thatcher, Michael Foot and David Steel appealed for funds for a memorial to Lord Mountbatten, but on that occasion they were joined by five

The CPRE was launched at a time of

countryside of rapid urbanisation, fuelled by rising mobility and demand for better housing. Extensions to the Underground were making it easier for people to commute to work and the distiguring sprawl of "ribbon development" went

largely unchecked.
One of the CPRE's first successes was a campaign that forced Shell and other petroleum companies to take down unsightly roadside advertising. It also backed calls for a "green belt" (originally "girdle") round London, which was introduced in 1946.

Baldwin, who spent his boyhood in the region of Worcestershire, Continued on page 2, coi 5

Letters, page 17

Public sector pay squeeze hits nurses

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Government angered sector workers. The move, public-sector workers yester which saved £150 million, has day by restricting ourses to a alienated groups representing national pay rise of 2 per cent a million professionals in a and criting back average. and cutting back awards to a million others, including teachers and doctors."

Britain's 480,000 nurses were told they would have to rely on local bargaining to an offer dismissed by murses' leaders as "derisory". The Government added to their anger by declining to follow last year's practice of setting a target that nurses should be

able to win from hospitals. While ministers claimed that the absence of a ceiling on local deals could mean that nurses in some areas would win much more than 2 per cent, nurses' leaders de-nounced the squeeze as another attempt by the Government to foist local bargain-

ing on them. The dispute with the nurses and allied groups such as midwives and health visitors overshadowed the announcement of more generous rises, recommended by the independent pay review bodies, for doctors, teachers, dentists, members of the armed forces, judges, senior military and top

civil servants.
The Cabinet was forced to make staged awards to these groups to protect its counterinflationary policy, to keep borrowing under control, and to check the risk of a pay explosion among other publicpre-election year. Without staging, the pay bill would have risen by £884 million or 4 per cent. The average initial pay increase will now be 3 per

cent, while the inflation rate is Teachers will receive 3.75 per cent, with 2.75 per cent in April and the rest in December. Doctors will get an average of 3.8 per cent. with dentists on 4.3 per cent. There will be special rises for junior medical staff; registrars will receive 5.3 per cent and house officers will be given 6.8 per cent. In all cases, I percentage point of the rise will be delayed until December.

Judges will be given staged



rises of 3.9 per cent and senior military officers will receive an average increase of 1.6 per cent. Under a new periormance-related pay structure, top civil servants could get up to il per cent, but poor performers might get nothing at all. Last year, the Govern ment paid awards ranging

The Royal College of Nursing called the 2 per cent award utterly out of touch at a time of growing nursing shortages and rock bottom morale". It added: "Nurses will expect equality with junior doctors. They are worth 6.8 per cent

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Trea-sury, accused the Government of double standards. Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas, could retire with £250,000 a year, while a staff nurse had been promised an increase of only £5 a week.

"The staging of the teachers" and other awards is a deception and an admission of economic failure by the Government, who are saying that they are doing so badly on the economy that they cannot afford to pay at once increases which they accept are justi-

fied." he said Ministers judged that the recommended pay rises could not be afforded within the spending increases announced for Whitehall departments last November. Fears



Talks ahead: nurses will have rely on local bargaining to top up their award

that some of the extra £880 million Budget allocation for schools might have to be siphoned off for teachers' pay awards is also believed to have influenced the Government's strategy. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, ruled out raiding the £3 billion reserve to find the extra £150 million needed to pay the rises

in full immediately.

Senior Treasury officials insisted that the decision would not affect the Chancellor's growth forecast for this year of

3 per cent. Conservative MPs are concerned, however, that med-dling with the review body awards could delay the reap-pearance of the feel-good factor" and undermine the party's political recovery.

Many Tories saw the decision as a victory for Mr Clarke and senior Treasury officials. It was also seen as a strong signal that the Government intends to delay a general election until next spring to allow time for a fresh round of Budget tax cuts and another

Pay deals, page 8

Myra Hindley may move to open prison By RICHARD FORD MYRA HINDLEY, the moors munderer jailed for life in 1966, should be considered for transfer to an open prison, the Board Parole has recommended The suggestion, which will spark a storm of controversy. was made following a review of her case last month. Mich-

ael Howard is now consider-

ing the recommendation, which he is under no obliga-

faces a dilemma because a

rejection could prompt a court

for Hindley. Yet moving her to

an open jail would trigger a

It is understood that the

panel of up to four members —

including a psychiatrist —

which considered Hindley's

case did not suggest how long

she should remain in prison.

Hindley, 54, who was jailed for the murder of four child-

ren, is being held at Durham. Her lover Ian Brady, also

jailed for life, does not wish to be considered for parole.

The Prison Service has three

But the Home Secretary

tion to accept.

public outery.

Hindley: a move could trigger public outcry

open jails for women -Drake Hall in Eccleshall, Staffordshire and East Sutton Park near Maidstone in Kent. inmates are allowed great freedom to move around, sometimes outside the prison. without being guarded. None of the female open jails has a

secure perimeter fence. Mr Howard is also studying representations from Hindley's lawyers over a decision by Lord Waddington, when Home Secretary in 1990. that Hindley remain in prison for the rest of her life.

Prescription charge is increased by 25p

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESCRIPTION charges are to rise by 25p to £5.50p from April, an increase of nearly 5 per cent, the Government announced last night. Labour immediately accused ministers of sneaking through the increase in a parliamentary written answer and ducking



out of a Commons statement. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister also announced that the maximum charge for dental treatment is to rise from £300 to £325, but the value of optical vouchers, given to children and those on income support, would go up by only one per cent. Mr Malone insisted that Britain's exemp-tion arrangements were still among the most generous in

Europe. Fees for prescription prepayment certificates will rise by £1.30 from £27.20 to £28.50 for a four month certificate and by £3.60 to £78.40 for an annual ticket. Mr Malone said that about 85 per cent of prescriptions dispensed in 1986-87 would be free.

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radio guide THE 8-SECTION TIMES IS 40p TOMORROW

Tory drops in to win nomination

By James Landale; Political Reporter

YOUNG Tory bloods will stop at nothing to win themselves the chance of a seat in the Commons. But few spend £1,600 to hire a helicopter to beat the driving snow and selection meetings in different parts of the country during the

same evening. John Bercow, special adviser to Virginia Bottomley, did exactly that on Wednesday. night when he was invited to the final selection meetings for two seats with majorities of more than 20,000.

Mr Bercow, 33, was invited to compete with five other candidates for Surrey Heath, a new seat created by boundary changes with a notional majority of 22,754, and Buckingham, with a notional majority of 20,644 where the list had been whittled down to Mr Bercow and an old political friend, Julian Lewis, organised the trip between Surrey and Buckingham. First, they arranged with both party agents for him to appear first in Surrey and last in Buckingham, to allow enough time for the trip.

After being interviewed by Tory officials at the Lakeside Country Club at Frimley Green near Camberley, Surrey, Mr Bercow dived into a waiting chauffeur-driven car at 7.35pm, arriving at the Blackbushe airport at 7.50pm. Mr. Bercow, his girlinend Louise Cumber, and Mr Lewis

rushed out to the waiting Twin Squirrel helicopter where pilots Leon Smith and Bob Thompson, were preparing for the 35-minute flight. The three passengers crammed into the back of the five-Continued on page 2. col 4

Collins and the missing million

more generous pay round.

Joan Collins took a verbal mauling in the witness stand in New York yesterday in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance at the root of the dispute. "A million dollars sounds a lot, but it actually isn't," she said.....

Media merger

A giant new media group was announced yesterday under a £3 billion marriage of the with television station owner MAI. The new company will be run by Lord Hollick, MAI managing directorPages 6, 21

Accountancy exam

Results of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' December final examination will be published tomorrow. Copies will be available from London mainline stations from 10pm.



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LAW REPORT	

o be born British, announced Peter Butler (C. T Milton Keynes NE) to a packed House, "is to win the lottery of life". The Prime

Minister agreed. Mr Butler, who said he was quoting Lord Palmerston, was received with cheers if not an impromptu rendering of Land of Hope and Glory. But his claim raises difficulties. First, it was not Lord Palmerston who coined the assertion, but Cecil John Rhodes, Second, Rhodes said "English", not British". Third, it was not a

Rhodes was referring. This is what Rhodes said:

"Remember that you are an Englishman, and have consequently won first prize in the lottery of life.

Mere quibbles, of course. When (as in Butler's case) you are Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, you have better things to do than distinguish between one of our greatest Foreign Secretaries and a rascally commercial adventurer. English? British? From the

who cares? It must seem almost the same. And in Milton Keynes the pressure on libraries will be very great there may have been no time for Mr Butler to check his

But the error we must correct is the idea that there is only one prize in the lottery of life. What about a second prize? This, surely, must be to be elected Conservative Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes NW. The numbers securing this prize are 01 41 76

ing to cut back on administra-

tive costs in the interests of the taxpayer." Mr Major told

MPs. "It's right that we should

because the alternative obvi-

ously is to take the money

away from benefits, which we

Unions are meeting DSS

officials on February 19 to discuss the implications for

jobs. Mr Lilley said he hoped compulsory job losses would be avoided, but civil servants

remain sceptical. Mr

Reamsbottom, who represents

50,000 of the 88,000 civil

servants in the DSS, said: "If

it's compulsory redundancies.

then there's a chance we might

The Social Security Depart-

ment was giving no details of

where the cuts, announced in

a letter to all staff from Ann

Bowtell, permanent secretary,

would be made. A spokes-woman said efficiency savings of £550 million had been achieved since 1989/90, but

Sally Witcher, director of Child Poverty Action Group,

argued that genuine claimants

would lose out "I would be

amazed if they could bring in

cuts of this order and not leave

claimants with a worse ser-

vice.," she said. " If the quality of service provided by the

benefits agency is affected

then people are going to come

to organisations such as ours."

makes clear that the 25 per

cent cutback cannot be made

simply by working harder or

pruning costs. "The commitment and professionalism of

all our staff has enabled us to

deliver a major programme of

change and to do our work

more efficiently. But we face a

significantly tougher chall-enge ahead. To keep within

budget and cope with rising

workloads, we need to find business efficiencies of at least

a quarter by 1998/99."

In her letter, Ms Bowtell

there was a need for more.

resort to industrial action."

don't want to do."





- the Tory majority. Adjacent to Milton Keynes NW lies Milton Keynes SW. This constituency is third prize in the lottery of life, and was won in 1992 by Barry Legg (C): winning numbers 00 46 87.

There are also much smaller prizes, one of which is not even in England, but Wales, where Walter Sweeney (C) won the

Vale of Glamorgan: winning

numbers 00 00 19. However, the chap whose fate it was to field questions at the dispatch box yesterday was the winner of the biggest booby prize in the lottery of life. To inherit the Tory leadership after Margaret Thatcher is like thinking you've won a double-rollover, then finding

Given those circumstances, John Major put up a pretty spirited performance yesterday afternoon. Tony Blair. thin-lipped with frustration, clawed the air for a few minutes on the subject of why key ministers (but nobody else) are receiving the Scott report six days before others. He clawed in vain: the Tories, baying to order, seem to have remembered that the party that bays together, stays together.

Mr Riddick dipped last year into the fombola of life (when Sunday Times reporters posing as businessmen offered him £1,000 to ask a question) and came up with only sawdust. Then he was consured by the privileges committee.

Pluckily, he bats on, but mustbe judged unfortunate, so far. in fate's lottery two blank ball most definitely missing.

the Prime Minister, was Grab- behind the Union", criticising am Riddick (C., Colne Valley) . - Tony - Blair's constitutional plans. These came, he said. from a meddling, middle-class public school boy. Sir Malcolin Thornton (C. Crosby), quoting a socialist docu-ment, said public schools "produce social eripples".

a po miss

Of course Mr Major (as he him whether, in his day, the scratchcards and his bonus senior boys received their ex-Yesterday he wanted to early.

Social security cut will cost 20,000 jobs, say unions

By Dominic Kennedy, JILL SHERMAN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

A POLITICAL storm blew up last night over the Government's plans to cut social security running costs by 25 per cent, with predictions that up to 20,000 jobs lost.

Labour claimed the planned El billion cutbacks would push the benefits system past breaking point and encourage fraud. Unions and charities insisted the cuts in the £4.5 billion administrative budget would hit genuine claimants and said they could provoke

Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association. said it was impossible to reduce spending so swiftly without ending the Social

attack on the social security

budget, which consumes a

third of state spending, in-

volves a drive to reduce benefit

payments, stop fraud and cut

bureaucracy. The central

prong of this strategy has run

into an immovable object: the

steadily rising number of

Since 1979, claimants for the

26 benefits available on the

welfare state have doubled.

One in six of the working

population are dependent on

state benefits compared with

one in 12 when the Govern-

ment came to power. More

than 30 million claims are

paid each year, including

child benefit to seven million

mothers and state pensions to

the ten million retired. Many

Efforts to curb benefits such

claim more than one benefit.

as those paid to single parents

claimants.

of no compulsory redundancies. He predicted that up to 20,000 jobs would have to go in the next three years.

Chris Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that any move to greater selfassessment of benefits would inevitably give the "green lights" to fraudsters and undermine attempts by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, to crack down on false

In the Commons, the Prime Minister defended the cutbacks, chiding Labour for carping on about money spent on administrative costs and then complaining when the Government cut them to pro-

Desperate strokes

against rising tide

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Secretary.

impact on the growing budget.

Mr Lilley, the Social Security

switched his attention to the

remaining two prongs: fraud

Last October. Mr Lilley

responded with outrage to

Treasury demands for a 5 per

cent cut in running costs

across all departments. In a

leaked letter to William

Waldegrave, chief secretary to

the Treasury, he said it would

At the time Labour won-

dered if this meant Mr Lilley was being asked to exceed the

5 per cent cut. It now appears

he was. No details were avail-

able yesterday on how the 25

per cent savings in adminis-

trative costs over three years.

announced by his permanent

secretary, Ann Bowtell, would

lead to "chaotic" services.

has therefore



John Bercow relaxes yesterday after bagging the nomination in Buckingham

Continued from page 1 seater, donned ear muffs against the noise and were off.

Meanwhile a friend, Nina Karsov, had driven up to Buckingham from London. Two cars - with their indicator lights flashing and their headlights on - marked out the area at Finmere where the helicopter landed with a bump

Mr Bercow and his friends rushed into the waiting car

Tory flight

and sped off for the school. In the car, Mr Bercow turned to Mr Lewis and said: "Julian, this is the best £1,000 I have ever spent." They arrived at the school with minutes to spare at 9pm.

Mr Bercow rushed onto the tage and addressed the faithful. "Just because I am a little chap, it doesn't mean I haven't

got a big ambition," he told them. Mr Bercow was select-ed, defeating Howard Flight and David Rutley.

Mr Bercow said last night To arrive at a Tory selection meeting by helicopter is a little unconventional but it certainly got my blood up. When an nacle is put in your way you need some resourceful ness to overcome it. It cost me

Lilley beats attempt to stall £200m cut in refugee benefits

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY won a High of Peter Brooke, the former in the snow". Steven Kovats,

down an appeal by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants to halt the cuts in spite of being told that some refugees find themselves destitute and on the streets without over the Government's decision on benefits, with took effect on Monday.

Conservative Cabinet minis-

Under the new rules, benefits will no longer be paid to asylum seekers appealing against a decision to refuse them status as refugees or to anyone who makes an asylum application having entered

Nicholas Blake, QC, for the

for the Government, said it was "inappropriate" to "stay" regulations which at the moment were the law

The full case will be heard at the same time as a challenge by Conservative-controlled Wesminster council and Labour Hammersmith and Fulham. Both have said that they will face big bills because of their continuing duty to house asylum seekers, even though those housed will have no access to benefits.

Court battle yesterday to halt benefits to thousands of asylum seekers aimed at saving £200 million a year. But the legality of the action is to be tested in a full court hearing in

Mr Justice Brooke turned shelter. He ruled that he had "no jurisdiction" to intervene Mr Justice Brooke, brother

ter, said the number of people affected by the decision would be "comparatively small" although he expressed concern about those who would fall ctim to the cutbacks.

ritain for another reason.

JCWI said that asylum seekers would have to endure "ex-treme hardship", including "starvation and homelessness

It would cost £1.5 million to change the computers if a stay was granted and another £1.5 million to change them back once that order was lifted.

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President wooed by Spring in peace bid JOHN MAJOR yesterday led

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER

DICK SPRING, the Irish Foreign Minister, sought to persuade President Clinton vesterday of the merits of a Bosnia-style conference to break the impasse in the Northern Ireland peace

One day after the British Government all but dismissed the idea. Mr Spring explained it to Mr Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore during a 30-minute meeting at the White House. He emerged saying that the two men had agreed at least to consider the idea

The White House issued a statement that was studiously neutral and said only that the President "emphasised the importance of rapid progress to all-party talks".

Mr Spring said he re-mained convinced that the way forward was to bring all parties together in one venue but different rooms for "proximity talks", replicating the formula the Clinton Administration used last year to hammer out a Bosnian peace However, he did not entire-

ly reject Britain's preference for elections as a route to allparty talks. He said elections tended to be divisive while negotiations led to consensus. but "the onus is on those proposing elections, the British Government and the Unionist parties, to convince the nationalist parties that an elective process can assist what we are all trying to achieve, which is all-party

Cabinet gives way on Scott timetable

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

a Tory campaign to ride the storm that will follow publication of the Scott report next week. But after the intervention of Sir Richard Scott, the Cabinet agreed to allow the Opposition an earlier sighting of the report.

After Labour protested that it would receive the 1,800-page report only half an hour in advance, the judge wrote to the Trade and Industry Department that Robin Cook ought to see the report early. The Opposition will now receive it at about midday, three hours earlier than planned, a concession that Labour dismissed as minor.

Mr Cook said: This is not the way to handle a serious and considered report that will go to the heart of the way the Government is run. That means about six seconds per page." The media will have to wait until 3.30pm to see copies. Mr Major told the

Commons that he believed Sir Richard had carried out his task thoroughly. While not agreeing to Tony Blair's repeated demand that he should say that the investigation had been fairly conducted, the Prime Minister appeared to be trying to convince MPs that he was relaxed about the

That impression was en-hanced by the unusual ap-pearance in the House of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General and the minister likely to be subjected to the greatest criticism in the report. Sir Nicholas, who has seen the report, looked composed, as did William Waldegrave, another minister likely to be under pressure next week. A debate on the report is scheduled for February 26.

A team of civil servants across five government departments began a detailed anaysis of the judge's findings vesterday.

Data protection loophole exposed

Protection for personal information in computers was shown to be weak yesterday when the Law Lords said that it is no crime just to view data on a screen, (Frances Gibb writes). Upholding a ruling by the Court of Appeal, they held that the word "use" in the Data Protection Act 1984 meant

more than simply accessing information and reading it.

By a 3-2 majority, the lords said that a Kent police officer who looked at data on the Police National Computer to check vehicle registrations was not guilty of a criminal offence. There was no evidence that he made any unauthorised use of the information, such as passing it to a debt collector.

Mr Brown, 38, of Gillingham, is no longer with the force. In March 1992, he had been fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,750 costs on one charge of using, and another of attempting to use, personal data for a purpose other than that for which his police force was

Ashdown court evidence

Paddy Ashdown gave evidence in court yesterday at Yeovil Magistrates' Court against a constituent who is alleged to have threatened him with a flick knife. Christopher Mason, 51, who is charged with affray and possessing an offensive weapon, was committed for trial on March 1 at Taunton Crown Court. Mr Ashdown spent about 40 minutes giving evidence. He was also cross examined by Michael Cullum, representing Mr Mason, who was remanded in custody. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Major defends Lords

The Prime Minister said yesterday that Labour's pledge to reform the House of Lords was a "spiteful, thoughtless irrelevance". He made it clear that he did not believe banishing hereditary peers from the Upper Hause would do anything to bring the constitution into the next century. Tory peers yesterday started working on their own suggestions for more moderate modifications to the Upper Chamber which could include allowing some hereditary peers to vote alongside working peers.

School seatbelts ruling

Minibuses and coaches used to carry children to and from school or on school trips will have to be fitted with seathelts from February next year, Steven Norris, the Road Safety Minister, announced yesterday. But proposals for europe-wide regulations forcing all coaches to be fitted with seatbelts remain unresolved in Brussels and may not be implemented this century. In the meantime Britain is going alone in implementing regulations requiring a lapbelt to be fitted to every seat used by a child aged 16 and under.

Tory council's triple zero

One of the last eight Tory-controlled district councils in England has set a zero rate council tax for the third year. running, despite losing £800,000 from its central government grant. Residents in South Staffordshire will have to pay the county council and local parish precepts, amounting to £452 for a Band D home. This is a 4.6 per cent increase compared with an expected national-average rise of 8 per cent. The Conservatives have an overall majority of one on

Rave vicar goes to US

The disgraced "rave" clergyman Chris Brain has left Britain for America to try to make a comeback in the music and media business. Mr Brain, 38, who allegedly abused up to 20 women during his Nine O'Clock services in Sheffield, left the country without his wife after Christmas, according to his lawyer. Stewart Lale said: "Mr Brain has gone to America because he is less well-known there than here and he considered his chances of finding employment in Britain remote. He wants nothing to do with cults or religion."

The postman bites back

The Royal Mail has declared an entire street a no-go area after a postman was bitten twice by the same dog in a few weeks. Jock Kilpatric, 55, a postman for 32 years, was first attacked by Henry, an Alsatian cross, early in January, while approaching the door of the house in Causeway, Chessington, Surrey. Last week Henry struck again, Now, in what is believed to be the first time the Royal Mail has suspended deliveries to a street because of a dog, residents are having to collect their mail from the sorting office.

Cedric's bacon saved

Cedric the pig, who was paraded in front of British Gas shareholders last year as part of a protest against executive greed, has been saved from the slaughterhouse by becoming an honorary member of the GMB general union. The union saved the 200lb saddleback saw, which had become infertile and fat after eating to many biscuits offered by children, by arranging an early retirement package that would include guest appearances at union events. Cedric will continue to live on Mudchute Farm in east London until she dies.

Party leaders write letter on countryside

Continued from page ! reflected these concerns in a

series of speeches imbued with a nostalgia for a rural England that was already passing In 1924, he said: The sounds of England, the tinkle of the hammer on the anvil in the country smithy, the corncrake on a dewy morning, the sound of the scythe against the whetstone, and the sight of a plough team coming over the brow of a hill, the sight that has been seen in England since England was a land, and may be seen in England long

and every works in England has ceased to function, for centuries the one eternal sight of England."

The countryside he evoked still bore some resemblance to reality when Baldwin died in 1947. In the half-century since it has vanished as completely as the Empire itself. Mr Major shares some of

Baldwin's nostalgia but not his eloquence. When he wanted to evoke a similarly romanticised idea he drew partly on George Orwell for his image of "long shadows on after the Emmire has perished __county_erounds, warm beer,

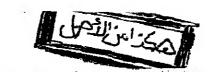
Holy Communion through the morning mist". Orwell's view of Baldwin was jaundiced, to say the least. "One could not even dignify him with the name of a stuffed shirt: he was simply a hole in the air."

Today the CPRE has a branch in every county in : England and 45,000 members who pay an annual subscription of £17.50. These do not include Mr Major, Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown.

The parallels with 1929 are not exactly happy for Mr Major. Within three weeks of

and old maids bicycling to signing the letter Baldwin led the Tories into a crushing defeat in the general election on May 30, when the number of Tory MPs fell from 419 to 250. With 288 Labour MPs. Ramsay MacDonald formed a minority Government, and just as Paddy Ashdown now hopes, Lloyd George's Liberals had a pivotal role with 59 MPs. But within two years the Labour Government had disintegrated in bitter splits and a Tory-dominated coaltion was

Letters, page II:



'\$1m sounds a lot but it actually isn't. I don't have it. It has already gone'

Joan Collins takes a pounding over missing advance

JOAN COLLINS took a verbal mauling in the wimess stand yesterday in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance at the root of the dispute. "A million dollars sounds a lot,

but it actually isn't," she said.

Miss Collins is being sued by Random House for failing to deliver a satisfactory manuscript for two novels. A Ruling Passion and Hell Hath No Fury. Random House is seeking the return of its advance, while Miss Collins is countersuing for the balance on the \$4 million.

Outside court Miss Collins said that the \$1.2 million had gone. The taxman takes 40 per cent, my agent took his 10 or 15 per cent - 1 don't remember which. And that doesn't really leave you a great deal," she told the New York Post "I don't have the \$1.2 million. It has already gone." In court, she was called as a hostile witness by Robert Callagy, Random House's sleek lawyer. He showed that

in an earlier lawsuit she

claimed to have suffered from

writer's block during the com-



Joan Collins: being sued for return of advance

position of books com-missioned by Random House. During an invasion of privacy case against the Globe newspaper, Miss Collins had claimed that the distress she suffered from the publication of indiscreet photographs of her with a man had quite put her off writing her novel.

Mr Callagy argued that her claims during that lawsuit were at odds with her claim now that the manuscript she delivered to Random House two months later was "complete". "You tell the Globe one thing when you're suing them, and you say another thing here when you're suing Ran-

Collins: "No. no." Mr Callagy: "Don't you have any shame?" A red-cheeked Miss Collins replied with a weak smile and left the witness stand, breafiing through her nose. In her remarks to the Post,

Miss Collins complained that the case was costing her "a very great deal". She said: "It is about power. About powerful forces. Swifty Lazar, who was my agent, was so very powerful. Random House is one of the most powerful pub-lishers in the world. I'm not an international corporation. I'm one person. I don't have the kind of money they do."

She added that Random

House's editor, Joni Evans, when courting her for the book deal, had "seduced" her "like a man trying to get a woman in to bed. She told me how wonderful I was, how terrific. She kept telling me I was the greatest thing since sliced bread. She told people: 'I want Joan Collins in my stable so much I can taste it.'" At the end of her evidence Miss Collins, elder sister of the

then left for a private room, where she was closeted for 25

novelist Jackie, dabbed her left

eye and took out a tissue. She

David Troughton and Josie Lawrence, named best actor and actress in the Shakespeare awards

Comedian wins Shakespeare prize

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

JOSIE LAWRENCE, the comedian who began her career in working men's clubs. has been recognised for her work as a classical actress. Her performance as Kale in The Tuming of the Shrew won the Dame Peggy Ashcroft prize for best actress yesterday in the Shakespeare Golden Globe awards in London.

Despite the comedy within Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes play. Law-rence, 36, had seemed a surprising choice for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Although she had always wanted to be an actress, she had not played any Shakespeare since drama college. As a Kenneth Williams, among others.

Lawrence, best known on television for the improvisation show Whose Line Is It Anyway?, said earlier this year: "I knew I needed to get back to more theatre. I could either do quiz shows and join the celebrity circuit, or go back to where I started." The play transfers from Strat-ford-upon-Avon to the Barbican Centre

in the spring.

The Sir John Gielgud award for best actor went to David Troughton, who has been playing Richard III as a devious jester and supporting John Nettles in Ben Jonson's The Devil is an Ass. The

comic-actor venturing into the world of the Bard, she was following in the for mest promise for the Bard, she was following in the for her Lady Macbeth. Silviu Purcarete, ing newcomer went to Helen McCrory for her Lady Macbeth. Silviu Purcarete, director of The Tempest at the Notting-ham Playhouse, won the Peter Brook award for best director. The Almeida Theatre in Islington, north London, won the Sir Tyrone Guthrie award for best production for taking its Hamlet, starring Ralph Fiennes, to Hackney and New York. The judges included the Times critic Benedict Nightingale. ☐ Nick Park, 37, creator of the animated

characters Wallace and Gromit, collected four awards for A Close Shave including the public choice for favourite film — at the British Animation Awards

Lincoln clergy ask Carey to end row over dean

By Russell Jenkins

SENIOR clergy have called on the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to resolve the long-running crisis at Lincoln Cathedral and rule on the

future of its dean.

About 30 canons overwhelmingly approved a resomeeting between the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, Dean of Lincoln, and his Chapter yesterday, urging Dr Carey to deliver his verdict and take decisive action.

Dr Carey sent two senior churchmen to talk to both factions late last year. Many clergy in the diocese believe the archbishop has been sitting on the findings and has delayed publication. After yesterday's meeting

Canon Raymond Rodger, personal assistant to the Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, said: The majority feel matters are so bad it can only be resolved by a change of personnel. We want a decisive view from the archbishop."

It was not clear last night whether Dr Jackson, 61, would comply with any ruling from the archbishop. He was appointed by Downing Street in 1989 and, legally, he is untouchable until his retirement at the age of 70.

The dispute can be traced back to an exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988 to raise funds. It lost £56,000. The following year Dr Jackson was appointed Dean and invited the fraud squad to investigate the cathedral's affairs.

The atmosphere worsened last summer when Dr Jackson was acquitted in a church consistory court of sexual misconduct with Verity Freestone, 31, a former cathedral verger. Dr Jackson believed he was the victim of a conspiracy.

A spokeswoman for Dr

Carey said: The archbishop shares the widespread anxiety and concern that has been expressed about the situation at Lincoln Cathedral. He is actively considering the implications of the report but these are complex matters and it would not be appropriate to make further comment."

Doctor in scrumping attack is cleared

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR convicted of assault after hitting a teenages he caught stealing apples from his garden won a court case to clear his name yesterday.

Mark Leak, 15, with a 2ft stick as he clambered over a fence with apples in his pockets. At an appeal hearing at Leicester Crown Court a judge ruled he did not know Leak was only scrumping and used reasonable force to defend his

Dr Singh, 41, a theatre anaesthetist, said: "My faith in British justice has been sustained. I still believe I did the right thing."

He told the court he picked up a stick as he ran into his garden after seeing two boys from his bedroom window. "I was shouting to the boys to stop but they kept running. One got over the fence, the other was straddling it. I just managed to reach him with the tip of my stick, with which I hit him. My intention was to apprehend him and give him over to the police."

Leak, now 17, was later cautioned for theft but told officers Dr Singh struck him twice with a metal pole when he was on top of the fence.

Dr Singh's costs for the appeal and original magistrates' court hearing last summer will be paid from central funds. He had been ordered to pay £123 costs and given a sixmonth conditional discharge by magistrates who found him guilty of common assault. The Crown Prosecution Service decided to prosecute him

after he refused a police caution for the alleged assault on

Hunt for rapist after woman is found murdered

By RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE hunt was under way last night for a convicted. rapist after a mother of two was found murdered at her home overlooking a yacht marina near Portsmouth.

Police issued a picture of a lic not to approach him. A spokesman said: The man we are looking for is very

The body of Glenda Hoskins, 45; an accountant, was found in the attic of her Ello,000 three-bedroom terraced house in Sennen Place, next to the marina at Port Solent, where the television series Howard's Way was

Mrs Hoskins was last seen on Wednesday at 8.30am when she took her children to school. The alarm was raised when her daughter Kate, 17, came home but could not get in because the door was locked from the inside. Kate was joined by her brother David, 14, and they telephoned their father, George, who was sepa-rated from their mother. They tried to get in on a number of occasions during the evening and at midnight police broke in and found the body.

Police said the children were "deeply traumatised" and detectives were waiting to speak to them. They are being comforted by relatives.

Officers said they were anxious to trace Mrs Hoskins's white Ford Escort Cabriolet, registration number M987 APO, which is missing. Police said they believed Farrant was the dead woman's boyfriend. Detective Superintendent the teenager in August 1994. David Hanna, who is leading

the inquiry, saids. We are urging enyone who has know-ledge of Mr Farrant's whereabouts to contact police."

Mr Farrant is thought to live in the Portsmouth area and to have connections with man they named as Victor. Sussex. He is about off lin tall Farrant and warned the pub- and heavily built with grey, lie not to approach him. A shoulder-length wavy hair. Appealing for Mr Farrant to come forward, Mr Hanna

said: "He used the vehicle on a number of occasions and may be in innocent possession of the car. We are anxious to locate him and eliminate him from the inquiry."

Mrs Hoskins worked from home. Police said it was

appointment on Wednesday after taking her children to school. Inquiries are under way to see if she kept it. A post-mortem examination was carried out yesterday by the Home Office pathologist Dr-Roger Ainsworth but the result was said to be inconclu-

sive. Further tests will be

made, but death by natural:

known she had a business



Farrant thought to be the victim's boyfriend

Convicted killer attacked teenager

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A PSYCHIATRIC patient who raped a teenage girl was a convicted killer who had served only five months in a secure hospital before being released back into the

community.

Ranjeet Matharu, 39, strangled his sister in 1986 during an argument at their home in Hounslow, west London. He was convicted of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility and sent to a secure mental hospital. Months later doctors considered him "cured" and released him.

in November last year a Knightsbridge Crown Court jury found him guilty on two charges of rape, one of inde-cent assault, false imprison-

ment and kidnapping.
Judge Aglionby adjourned sentence for psychiatric assessment but yesterday granted extra time to doctors who said they did not know the extent of Matharu's condition. He told Matharu he would be jailed for life or sent to a maximum security mental hospital.

The court was told that Matharu, of no fixed abode, toured west London in the van in which he lived searching for victims at random. The rape happened in June last year as his victim was walking home through Fulham. Matharu, wielding a screw-

driver, ordered her into the van and drove her to the where he raped her twice. After forcing her to reveal her name, address and telephone number he drove her home. Matharu was caught the

up a Polish au pair who fled

in the centre of Newbury was

halted when about 30 pro-testers climbed on to low-

loader lorries and strapped themselves to machines

being taken to the site. A

Thames Valley Police spokes-

woman said: "Both south-

bound lanes of the A34

through the centre of

Newbury were blocked and

mile tailback." She said that

seven people were arrested

and charged with wilful ob-

struction of the highway.

and alerted police.

Verger lost job over affair

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head verger at Ely Cathedral resigned after admitting an adulterous affair with the organist's wife, it was disclosed yesterday. Malcolm Johnson, married with one daughter, has lost a claim for

unfair dismissal. Mr Johnson had an 18month romance with Sally Trepte, wife of Paul Trepte, the director of music. She broke off the affair after her lover's resignation.

Mr Johnson, who is in his

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, that he had been forced to resign, but the tribunal said there was no evidence of this. Its written decision said, that even if it had considered his argument, he would have been refused compensation because his conduct was the cause of dismissal.

The written adjudication of the tribunal lifted a reporting restriction on naming Mrs Trepte. The cathedral's Dean. the Very Rev Michael Hig-gins, told the hearing: "Havundermined what we

stood for, his position had become untenable. Anyone who works for the Church knows there are traditions and Christian principles to be observed. It is not necessary to spell it out." The Dean admitted that the

cathedral had originally tried to gloss over Mr Johnson's departure by saying it was for "health reasons". He said: "He was offered a good package. No one wants to see these affairs laundered in public. I found it quite amazing that within a formight he had issued these proceedings."

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Newbury guards bypass soup and superiors on the road to defection

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT ant dismissed claims of said he had witnessed one of

THREE security guards employed to police the Newbury bypass protesters have changed camps because of heavy-handed tactics by some of their colleagues. Last night the men were enjoying one or two bevvies" in an eco-warrior encampment at Tot Hill, towards the south-

ern end of the route. Friends of the Earth. which is spearheading the campaign against the bypass, said it was delighted at the defections. A spokesman claimed that many of the guards were fed up with the Reliant security company. They forbid fraternisation with the protesters and have employed heavy-handed tac-

heavy-handedness and said: "People are quite entitled to change their views of life. We cannot legislate for people's opinions. We live in a democracy." She had visited the site on Wednesday and, despite the cold, had found the 597. other guards in good spirits. thanks to three soup-runs a

Brette Shepherd, 20, one of the defectors, who was unemployed for two years before guard hitting a protester.

Friends of the Earth said joining Reliant, said the final straw was being ordered by a supervisor not to chat with the environmentalists. "It was all too much, so I have given it up. I am staying at the camp for the rest of the

female protester and making a remark. "I was told to stand in the car park of a nearby garage. While I was there I told two policemen what I had seen. He had then been Graham Wanstall, the oth-

his superiors assaulting a

er defector, said he was demoted from a security at one point there was a ninecameraman to a linesman after trying to film a senior last night that the three had

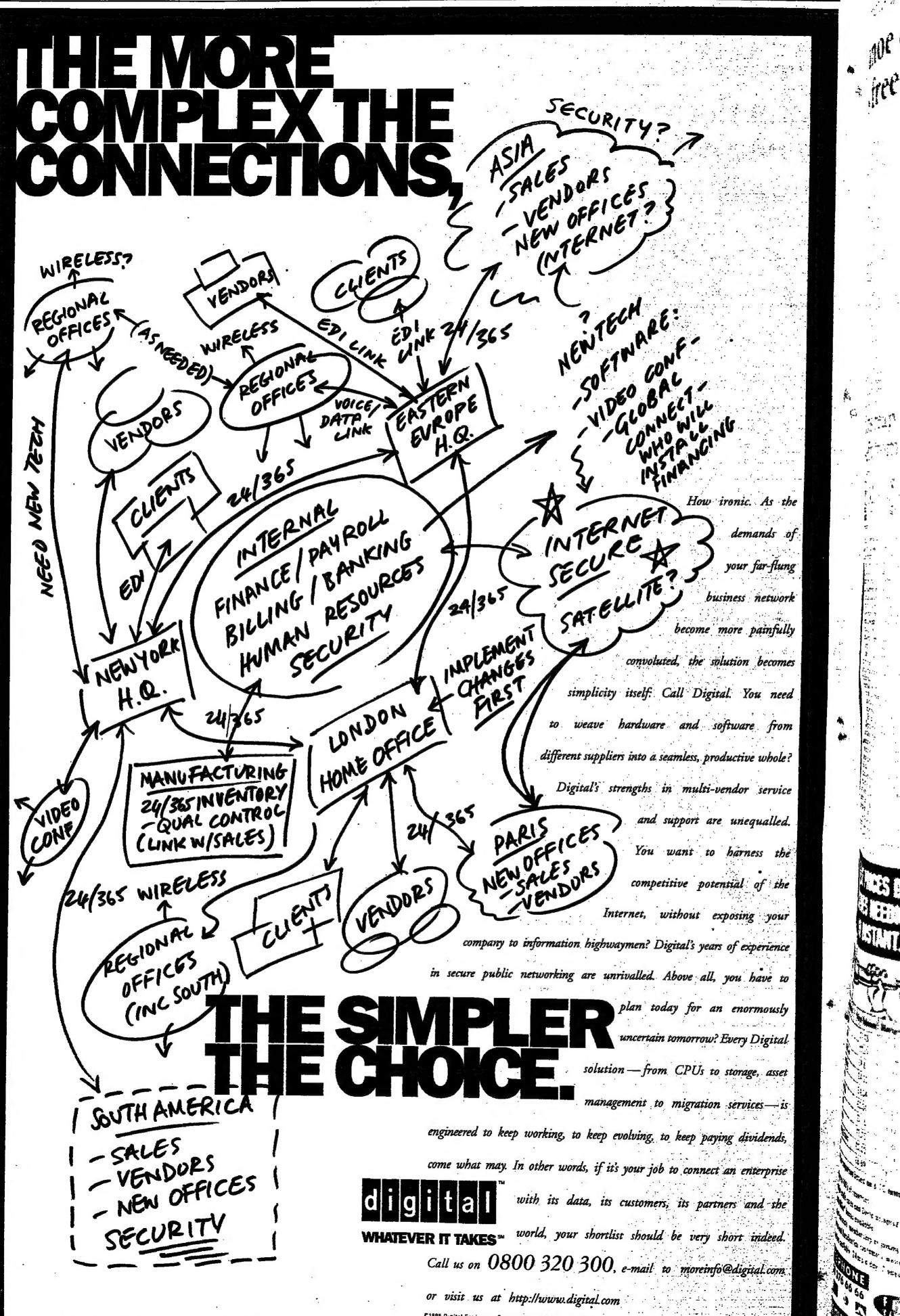
been given free membership and were to be feted at a rally and march this weekend. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said he could not comment on the allega-

☐ Church groups around Newbury are angry that a England vicar from Cam-bridgeshire. They fear the service will appear to contics in dealing with the week.

Stephen Ray, like Mr nons of assault service will appear to conprotests.

A spokeswoman for Reli- Shepherd from Portsmouth, Earlier, rush-hour traffic done the protesters activities.

religious service planned for today on the bypass site will be led by a Church of



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Parents angry at cut in sentence

Canoe disaster chief is freed on appeal

THE managing director of an lar charges of manslaughter activities centre, jailed for the caused by gross negligence activities centre, jailed for the manslaughter of the four young victims of the Lyme Bay canoeing disaster, is to be freed. Peter Kite, 46, who has spent 14 months in jail, had his three-year sentence cut by a year by the Court of Appeal

against conviction on four manslaughter charges dis-missed by the same judges. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas. against conviction on four appropriate sentence would be manslaughter charges dismissed by the same judges.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, sitting with Mr Justice Harrison and Mr Justice Thomas, said that they were "wholly satisfied" that the verdicts sentenced to three years but sentenced by the first way.

But they agreed to cut the sentence after hearing from Edmund Lawson, QC, representing Kite, that the longest sentence ever passed for simi-

The trial judge had hased his sentence on the fact that year by the Court of Appeal Thomas said: We entirely yesterday. With remission he is eligible for immediate release.

Kite, of Richmond, southwest London, had his appeal the judge, but in all the circumstances of the case is three years too long? He said the judges had agreed that an against conviction on four appropriate sentence would be reached the property of the property of

returned by the jury at Win-will soon be free. My daughter chester Crown Court in Dewas sentenced to death. Why camber 1994, were not in any couldn't Kite behave like a man and serve the rest of his -

what has happened. This is a

life sentence for the parents of the victims."

Kite was head of the St Albans Centre which was also convicted of four manslaughthe charges were serious and ter charges and fined £60,000 demanded a term "of sab at the Winchester trial Four stance" Lord Justice Swinton sixth-formers from Southway Thomas said: "We entirely School Plymouth died on March 22, 1993, during what was described at the trial as an "ill-conceived and poorly executed cance trip.

The teenagers took part in what was meant to be a two-

hour paddle to Charmouth, Dorset, but the weather worsened and the cames be-came swamped, forcing the teenagers into the water for hours. The other victims were Dunne, In. Four children and three teachers were rescued.

Dean Sayer's father, Gerry, said at his home in Plymouth Claire Langley, also 16, said: "I believe it, he should have done am just sad and angry about three years because that is



Enid Ashby with the weather vane design eventually approved by the PCC

Vane dispute will not blow over

A DISPUTE over the design although not to everyone's

Enid Ashby, 85, decided in 1992 to raise funds for a new vane for St Mary the Virgin. Rolvenden, to replace the down. After many hours making Christmas and birthday cards and selling lavender from her garden, she raised £800 and presented her design for the vane, a donkey standing on palm leaves, to the parochial church council.

But her idea fell foul of David Barham, the squire, dismissed it as "asinme" and tried to persuade the PCC to reject it for a more traditional

arrow design. Mrs Ashby that a compromise vane, designed by a local artist, has been chosen. Mrs Ashby has refused to hand over the money she raised.

This has upset me a lot and at the moment I feel that I am not going to church any more," she said, "I thought it



Mrs Ashby's design that was rejected

body has cockerels or arrows and I thought a weather vane with a donkey on it standing on a palm leaf instead of an arrow would depict the Christian story."

The approved design is an arrow and, as a concession to Mrs Ashby, the figure of the Virgin Mary on a donkey, within a circle of leaves, topped with a cross.

Mr Barham said: result is a compromise for the sake of village unity. An anonymous donor in the village has come forward with £1,000 and a blacksmith has been commissioned. A lot of work has gone into finding this compromise and I am now happy to forget about the

Artists reap double benefit from apples



opened at the Tate Gallery has carried out extensive stud-yesterday is predicted to be a less on the medicinal benefits

could see from his house, or

his love of apples, but where as he saw in them intimite and

ps the doctor away, was t based on any great know-ige of the matritional value tie largitive effect of apple juice. In the 19th century.

THE Cezanne exhibition that Institute of Food Research parts of the country. They are about to launch a travelling display, Core Science, about the science of apples.

bles. It is probable that the

It may well be better to The slogan "An apple's day, wath rather than peel an apple before eating it. Dis-carding the peel and leaving all the one halves the amount able. Apples are like grapes if is the carotenoids in the grape skins that give red wine its

> DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

BRITISH GAS PROPOSALS TO CREATE TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES IN 1997

WHY THE CHANGE?

The gas market is changing rapidly. The creation of two separate and independent listed companies will have clear benefits in the managing of our businesses more effectively, to the advantage of customers, shareholders and employees.

One company will focus on the supply of gas and related services in Britain. The other will continue to be Britain's single national transporter of gas and also develop the international gas business.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EMPLOYEES?

Employees will benefit from the better long-term prospects for both these separate companies.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CUSTOMERS?

We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of our service to customers. Single-minded attention to the needs of customers will speed the restoration of high standards of service. Above all a safe, reliable and secure gas transportation system will continue to be maintained.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHAREHOLDERS?

There is a great deal of work to be done. It is unlikely to be before the Spring of 1997 that a decision to proceed can be taken and formal proposals put to shareholders. Full details will be made available at that time and there is no need for any action at the moment. For more background ring the Shareholder line on 0345 003 006 which operates at the local call rate.

The state of the s

British Gas

RELATIVES NEEDN'T BE SO DISTANT £3.40 62% 35% £7,39 32% \$7.05 £4.81 South Africa 36% €6.56 £4.22 51% £4.34 55% £2.34 Austra 28% £9.94 £7.16 £3.40 49% £1.75 14% \$2.59 £7.22 ₹8.25 19%

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BY FRANCES GIBB

A FAST-TRACK procedure for libel claims up to £10,000 was unveiled by the Government yester-day. The Defamation Bill will introduce a summary procedure in which judges not juries can dispose of more straightforward claims.

The Bill will also allow new defences for defendants willing to offer amends to plaintiffs and to pay whatever damages a judge might assess. Providers of electronic media services, such as the internet, will be protected against libel proceedings. Those who do not have primary responsibility for publication, such as printers, distributors or sellers, would also have a defence.

The aim is to get cases before a judge more quick-ly and reduce the number going before juries in long. expensive trials. Judges would have the power to dismiss weak claims and, in the case of strong claims, to make awards of up to £10,000.

Political foes merge to protect media interests

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO peers from opposites sides of the political spectrum announced a merger yester-day that will create one of Britain's most powerful media conglomerates.

The Daily Express and Sunday Express, once part of the mighty Beaverbrook empire, are combining with MAL owner of two ITV stations and a money-broking business, in a defensive move that will remove the threat of takeover from both companies.

Lord Stevens of Ludgate chairman of United News and Media, is a true-blue Tory who has pledged to ensure that his national newspapers continue to support the Con-servative Party. Lord Hollick, chairman of MAI, is a cardcarrying Labour supporter and eschews the trappings of nobility. He despises his City nickname, the Red Baron, and is referred to in the merger documents as Clive Hollick. Lord Stevens uses his title

Lord Hollick is expected to call all the shots in the newly merged group. He said yesterday: "I will probably continue in read [the Express] and continue to disagree with it ...



Express Newspapers: takeover threat gone

It would be crazy to change the political stance, it is part of their brand." Observers believe, however, that the Ex-press newspapers, which have been the most loyal to John Major of all national titles, are likely to mellow their tone

under the new regime.

Although the Daily Star.

United's other daily, has long been seen as its most vulnerable national title, Lord Stevens said it was safe, adding that it was an "excellent" newspaper. In spite of their differences.

the two life peers have some

and built their careers in

they desperately need new things in common: they are both from the middle classes Lord Hollick is wiry and

circulations of his two flagship

titles have continued to decline. The Daily Express sells

1.28 million copies, compared

with more than four million in

the mid-1950s. The Sunday title has a circulation of 1.33

million. against a high of 4.2

Although Lord Stevens has made a last-ditch attempt to

restore the titles to their earlier

glory by appointing new edi-

tors and increasing invest-

ment, it is believed that

million in 1965.

fashioned media barons.

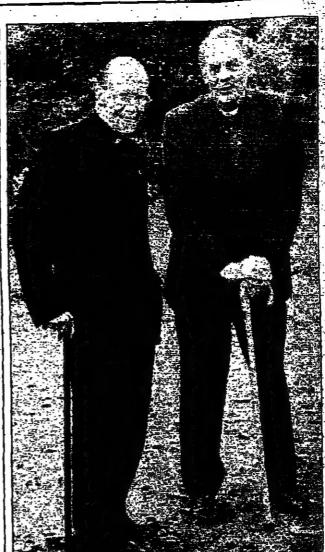
financial services. Neither has ever had the absolute power said by associates to be driven over their respective press and television interests like the oldby ambition. He is a gram-mar-school boy from South-ampton, whose father was a French polisher. He studied Lord Stevens was born into sociology, politics and psy-chology at Nottingham Univa middle-class family, the head of which invented the ersity, where he was president first hearing aid to be worn in

of the drama society. At 28 he became the youngest director of Hambros Bank. the ear. Although prickly, tough and proud, Lord Stevens shows glints of humour. He is not really the kind of He helped to sort out the Mirror group after Robert Maxwell's death but resigned person you would have to dinner unless he were chairhis directorship soon afterman of a newspaper," one wards. He moved into tele-vision in 1994 — an interest Regarded by some as a shrewd operator, others conthat stems in part from his Trinidadian wife, Susan ider him out of his depth in Woodford, a former director of Fleet Street. Since he took the helm of United in 1981, the

The rationale behind the merger is that it will allow both companies to make cost savings in the areas of newsgathering and distribution. The company envisages the creation of multimedia digital newsrooms to serve its national and regional papers and its television stations. There will be also be opportunities for cross-promotion between the print and television

ITV's World in Action.

The deal, page 21



Archbishop Worlock, left, and Bishop Sheppard, whose united leadership encouraged ecumenism

Liverpool mourns death of Worlock

By KATE ALDERSON AND RUTH GLEDHILL

TRIBUTES poured in yester-day for the Most Rev Derek Worlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, who died peacefully in his sleep after a long battle with cancer.
Archbishop Worlock's close friendship and working rela-tionship with the Right Rev David Sheppard, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, helped to inite the city and inspired better relations between the churches. Their close friendship earned them the sobriquet "fish 'n' chips", because

they were always together and never out the newspapers.

Bishop Sheppard said: "All the Churches have lost a great archbishop. The city and people of Liverpool have lost a great champion.

Archbishop Worlock, 76, died in hospital at 5.30am yesterday, His death came 20

years after he took up his post in the city and three days after his 76th birthday.

He had surgery to remove his left lung 32 years ago after contracting cancer and wast admitted to hospital last they suffering from exhaustion. He had a brain tumour that was

A single bell tolled at a hunchtime mass in the city's Roman Catholic cathedral yesterday. The tributes praised a man universally regarded as a champion of the

poor, scourge of sectarianism and devotee of Liverpool.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said Archbishop Worlock was an archanding section of the Archoisnop worlock was an outstanding servant of the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. George Carey, said: "His ministry reached far beyond the boundaries of the Roman Catholic community and touched with grace all the Christian churches of our land.

The search for a successor is The search for a successor is almost complete. Front-runners are the Right Rev David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds, and the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, Bishop of Salford. A popular choice would be the Right Rev. Vincent: Nichols, Bishop in North London and a Livernudham.

Runaways threaten beaver plan BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH A PLAN to reintroduce the European beaver to Scotland is under threat after children found one of its Canadian cousins at the side of Loch

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thought to have escaped from sandy Kerr, head of biodiversity at Scottish Natural Heritage, said the two types could create a hybrid that might prove sterile. How-

ever, he hopes the problem can be overcome if there are few Canadian colories.

The female beaver found exhausted by the loch is above recovering in the Hessilfead Wildlife Rescue Centre at Parth.

Lomond. It is the second

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Field Mershel

Services face rent increases in £227m package



BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP increase in rents for Service married quarters was announced yesterday as part of the overall pay deal for the 227.400 men and women in the Armed Forces. The package will cost taxpayers an extra £227 million in the next financial year.

Most rents are to increase by 10 to 15 per cent, and by 25 per cent for the piggest houses, in an attempt by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to

private sector. To cushion the blow, the increases will be staged. Despite increasing concern over

Army recruiting shortages, particularly for the infantry, pay differentials still favour the top brass. The four most senior officer ranks - field marshal to major-general and their equivalents in the Royal Navy and RAF - are to receive an average increase of 4.6 per cent (ranging from 3.9 to 5.6 per cent) and the remainder 3.5 per cent (3.2 to 3.8 per cent) by

The salary of Britain's most senior

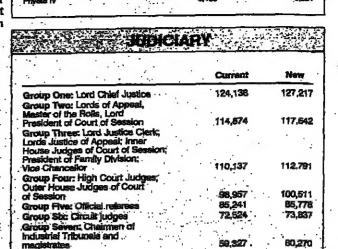
military officer, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff. will rise to £125,850 and that of the most junior soldier, a newly recruited private, to £8,921. The higher award will affect 153 senior officers, including four generals. Il lieutenant-generals and 43 major-generals.

However, the differential between the highest and lowest ranks is absorbed by two other elements of the award which only benefit Service personnel of the rank of brigadier and below. The men and women in this

factor" increase of 0.5 per cent, a special "disruption" allowance, and a beneficial change in the way pension liability is assessed that will mean the equivalent of a futher 2 per cent in take-home pay, phased over two years.

The rest of the pay award is also being staged so that I per cent of the increase will be held back until December 1. The bulk of the award will be paid from April 1.

Last year the most senior officer ranks were awarded a 3.2 per cent increase. All other ranks received an average 26 per cent



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Nurses say 2% deal is insult to the profession

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NURSING unions reacted with a mixture of outrage and disbelief yesterday at the gap between their award and the near 7 per cent rise for some junior doctors. Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said: "Today's award is derisory. Nurses will expect equality with junior doctors. They are worth 6.8 per cent too."

The rises for doctors and dentists of up to 6.8 per cent took the highest paid consul-tant to £106.140.The nurses were awarded a 2 per cent increase in national pay scales plus an unquantified amount to be negotiated locally.
The Royal College of Mid-

wives said the award was "insulting" and sent a signal to women that "their health and that of their babies is

Junior doctors' salaries range from £22,000 to £42,000 including overtime compared with £10,000 to £24,000 for

Unison said the pay award would do nothing to solve the staffing crisis in the NHS. Malcolm Wing, deputy head of Unison, said: Staff will continue to leave the service in droves, leading to even more ded closures. School leavers will continue to look elsewhere

However, the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said the national award of 2 per cent was "too large to give the complete flexibility that trusts want" to negotiate their own rates of pay.

Philip Hunt, the director, said: "Next year will be very tight financially. Trusts want to be fair to staff but at the end of the day they can't let pay increases eat into the resources available for patient

care." NHS unions are to meet on Monday to discuss plans for a nationally co-ordinated campaign to put an agreed pay demand to each individual NHS trust. Nurses sought total rises of 8 per cent and physiotherapists and other professions allied to medicine asked for 16 per cent in evidence to the pay review

The unions are angry at the Governments refusal to set guidelines for the size of the local element of pay award. Last year, nurses received a national pay award of ! per that trusts should offer up to a further 2 per cent. By the end of the year, following threats of industrial action, all but a handful of trusts had paid the fuli 3 per cent.

Under an agreement that secured the end of the pay dispute last autumn every NHS trust will raise its pay scale by the full 3 per cent aiready agreed by the majority of trusts from 31 March.

In contrast with the nurses, the Government has dropped



Dorrell: defended



its drive to introduce local pay

for doctors. Consultants and

3.8 per cent rise with a 4.8 per

the final I per cent paid at I

offered up to an extra 2.5 per

cent on top of the 2.5 per cent

national rise if they signed

local contracts. Morw than 90

per cent of consultants failed

to take up the offer according

Last year consultants were

December.

Hancock: demanded equality for nurses

Junior doctors will receive

increases ranging from 4.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent. However, only the few who do no cent increase for dentists, with no local element. The rises wil overtime will receive the bigbe staged, to ease the pressure on NHS trusts budgets, with gest rises. Stephen Dorrell, the Health

Secretary, said comparing the nurses' award with that of junior doctors was not comparing like with like. The policy is not 2 per cent for nurses, the policy is locally negoriated pay."

He would not be drawn on the likely size of local awards. He said the 2 per cent national rise was a floor from which local negotiations could start. You will not find me offering any central norm on what local pay should be. That

Defending the size of the increases to junior doctors he said: "They are an example of pay being targeted at specific pressure points to ease shortages.

Mr Dorrell defended the staging of the pay award to doctors and dentists, which is expected to save £30 million. "If you spend money on staff salaries you have less money for growth in activity." he said.

Top civil servants may get 11% more

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SOME civil servants could have an 11 per cent pay rise this year under a new performance-related pay

The Review Body on Senior Salaries recommended that pay increases for about 3,000 top civil servants should range from nothing for "unsatisfactory performers" to 11 er cent for the tew æ as "truly exceptional". Greater flexibility in order

to attract senior managers from the private sector lies behind the new system. From April, individual government departments will determine pay increases, thus limiting the role of the review body, which will in future recommend only broad bandings.

A 3 per cent rise in the maximum payable to permanent secretaries will allow the Government to offer up to E154,500 to recruits from the

for the 40 or so top civil servants at permanent secretary level will remain £90,000. The new structure is designed to allow "outstanding performers" to move from the bottom of the band to the top in five or six years. In reality, no one at present

is anywhere near the top.

Although some agency chief executives, including Lewis, the former head of the Prison Service, have been paid more than £130,000, the highest paid officer in the nal Civil Service is Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. He is paid f118,000. Sir Terry Burns, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is paid f110,000.

The overall Civil Service pay bill is expected to fall by 7 per cent as staff numbers fall. The pay for about 1.550 judges is to be raised by 3.9 per cent. and the Lord Chief Justice's

Teachers' unions fear bigger classes and job cuts

Tax-cutting Government accused of giving with one hand and taking with the other

THE phased pay award for teachers of 3.75 per cent brought predictions of further increases in class sizes, redundancies and shortages of staff in key subjects. Teachers will get a 2.75 per

cent rise in April, with a further I per cent in December. The award will be worth 3.1 per cent over the full year and cost an estimated £346 Gillian Shephard, the Edu-

cation and Employment Secretary, accepted the pay review body's recommendation of a bigger increase in starting salaries to attract more graduates. Entrants to the profession will be paid £14.001 by the end of the year, a rise of 4.88 per cent.

Mrs Shephard accepted all

the main recommendations in the review body's report, but decided to pay the award in stages to ease the strain on school budgets. "I believe this is a fair settlement which reflects the continuing need to ensure that the profession between each grade. attracts, retains and motivates

quality."
Head teachers said the phasing was outrageous and the overall increase would do nothing to raise morale. Local authorities and governors said many schools would not be able to afford the increase without shedding teaching posts and raising class sizes.

individuals of the required

The review body made several recommendations to make teachers' pay more flexible, encouraging governors to re-ward good performance. The pay spine will be lengthened with the addition of half points

From next year, extra pay-ments for heads and deputies will be reviewed against "performance criteria agreed with governors. The review body did not support Mrs Shephard's suggestion that incentives should be introduced to encourage teachers to take jobs in difficult schools. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said 74

would have less to spend on education next year after paying for the teachers' pay rise, despite Budget promises of more money for schools. The Government is being

dishonest over school fund-ing," he said. "Ministers must now explain how increased class sizes and cuts in teaching posts, books and equipment can be avoided. It is irresponsible for ministers to accept the recommendations of the review body and then to pass the buck to a local level." A time-bomb of teacher shortages was predicted by the Association of Metropolitan



Shephard: says the settlement is fair

who chairs the education committee, said: "The pay review body recommended 3.75 per cent with no phasing in an attempt to head off a recruitment crisis and also to improve retention. Instead



Blunkett attack on ministers' "dishonesty"

teachers will feel they have got a had deal which lowers morale, and class sizes will rise because schools will not be able to afford extra staff to deal with rising rolls."

The National Union of

month by phasing in their pay rise. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said: The little that has been given will mean teacher job losses and an inevitable further rise in class sizes to the detriment of child-ren. Instead of leaving schools to struggle to meet the increase the Government should accept responsibility for funding the award in full."
The last time the Govern-

the top of the pay scale of £10 a.

ment provided cash for the teachers' pay rise was during the run-up to the 1992 general election. Pupil numbers will rise by 86,000 in the new school year, adding to a 6 per cent rise since 1990 when the 439,500 teachers was the same as the current figure. Nigel De Gruchy, general

secretary of the National Asso-Teachers accused the Govern- ciation of Schoolmasters and above theoretic budget limits.

said: "Only last November. Chancellor Kenneth Clarke was busy handing out tax concessions: Today we are told the Government cannot afford to pay its salary bill on time.
Another case of giving with
one hand and taking back
with the other."

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers told the review body that a rise of at least 7.5 per cent was needed to attract the best graduates. Peter Smith, the general secretary. predicted further redundar cies among teachers because of the Government's refusal to fund the award.
The Association of County

Councils said the award would mean authorities having to find an extra EZTS million over the £100 million they were already spending

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Porridge, Sykes and The Two

Jailed activist was denied access to a solicitor

Republican wins £15,000 from human rights court

HOME CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING republican activist, who was jailed for eight years for his part in helping to falsely imprison an RUC informer, was awarded £15,000 costs by European Union hu-

man rights judges yesterday.
The judges ruled that John
Murray's human rights were violated because he was refused access to a solicitor while being questioned about abetting the detention of an IRA volunteer who had turned informer. The ruling is likely to lead to changes in legal practice in Northern Ireland, where exclusion of solicitors from interviews is allowed.

But the European Court of Human Rights found in favour of curbs on the right to silence operating in Northern Ireland. They voted by 14 to five against Murray's claim that his right to a fair hearing

the trial judge had drawn an adverse inference from Murray's silence during questioning and at the trial.

The decision to award costs to Murray, who played a dominant role in the incident, was criticised by Unionist MPs, who said it was "bereft

of credibility".

Murray, 44, from Crees-lough Park, West Belfast, was jailed in 1991, after being convicted of aiding and abetting the false imprisonment of Sandy Lynch, an RUC informer Among others jailed with Murray for their part in incident was Danny Morri-son, the former Sinn Fem

publicity director. The court rejected Murray's claim for compensation and cut his original claim for £36,000 costs by more than half after an appeal by lawyers representing the Govern-during police questioning and ment. The judges ruled by 12 at trial to provide an explana-

of Murray's solicitor from 12 interviews infringed his right to defence, which is safeguarded by the European Human

Rights Convention.

Murray, who destroyed a tape recording of Mr Lynch's confession when police sur-rounded a house where he had been interrogated, stayed silent through all his police interviews. The judges said that the right to silence was at the heart of fair procedure under the Human Rights Convention. The question of whether those rights were breached by drawing "adverse inferences" from an accused's silence depended on the cir-

comstances of each case. "In the court's view, having regard to the weight of the evidence against the applicant, the drawing of inferences from his refusal at arrest,

house was a matter of common sense and could not be sonable in the circumstances."

But the judgment said that, because Murray chose to be silent, it was all the more important that he should have had access to a solicitor. To deny access to a lawyer for the first 48 hours of police ques-tioning in a situation where the rights of the defence may well be irretrievably prejudiced is - whatever the justification for such denial -incompatible with the rights of

the accused," it said: John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "This decision will mean that suspects interrogated under the terrorist legislation will no longer be prevented from seeing their lawyers for the first two days

Law Report, page 28



Neil Fingleton with two classmates, Stephen Robinson, left, and Bill Nixon

Basketball boy aims high

By STEPHEN FARRELL.

A 7th lin schoolboy who cats six Shredded Wheat for breakfast is aiming for a basketball career in America after being called up by Britain's national under-16

Neil Fingleton, 15, of Garsgate, Durham, is still growing but aiready he can touch a 10th basketball rim from a standing position. He took up the game only 15

Alcoholic

lemonades

renamed

By ROBIN YOUNG

months ago with the adult Stockton Mohawks tram after a member spotted him

playing football.

His height causes problems buying clothes and
sports shoes—he takes size 13 but he hopes it will be his passport to the NBA league in America. He said: "Obviously height is a great advan-tage but you still have to have good control."

two stone to his 14st frame. A nutritionist has drawn

up a 4,000 calories a day diet, Neil's food bill is £50 a week. Tony Hanson, the Mohawk coach and a former NBA player, said: "I'm sure the hools and colleges in the Neil comes from a tall US are - his mother, Chris-

Diplomats used dead girl's cash

The family of a girl killed by a car during a school trip to France condemned Foreign Office officials who took cash from her bag to pay for the return of her effects.

A letter told the parents of Lindsey Rockcliffe, 13, in Leeds: "The sum of £2.10 has been deducted to cover postage by recorded delivery. They said it was "disgusting". The Foreign Office said "We quite understand the family's reaction. However, this procedure is normal."

Driver fined £1

Police condemned magistrates at Aldershot for fining a drink-driver El. Christopher Walker, of Crowthorne, Buck inghamshire, was barmed from driving for one year. He was Img over the 80mg limit.

Ferry port closed

Ferry services were disrupted after striking French workers closed the port of Calais. Ferries from Dover to Calais adding 22 hours to the

Traffic jam

Traffic wardens have been wrongly booking cars in Bideford, Devon, unaware that a two-hour limit was scrapped in 1986. Police are offering refunds to proven

Cycle path prize

The 140-mile Sea to Sea cycle path across northern England has won the Global British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award. It is the first British entry to win the prize, set up six years ago.

Homes sell faster

The average time taken to sell a house has fallen from 22 weeks to 21 in the past year, according to the Black Horse estate agents. The North West takes longest (30 weeks) and the South East shortest (13).

Woman rescued

A 75-year-old woman was rescued by a lifeboatman and his son after being thrown into the harbour in Broadstairs, Kent, when her battery-operated wheelchair went out of

Councils to crack down on roadside polluters

Mike a fitter, is oft lin.

dream he must add at least

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE makers of carbonated alcoholic drinks are to rename them in advance of publication of a voluntary code of practice intended to avoid Department of Transport anconfusion between alcoholic drinks and those intended for

Bass said yesterday that it woold abbreviate the name Hooper's Hooch Alcoholic Lemonade to Alcoholic Lemon Merrydown, producer of Two Dogs Alcoholic Lemonade, is to rename the drink Two Dogs Alcoholic Lemon Brew. The changes are to be

man as soon as present stocks are exhausted. Whithread has abandoned plans to launch alcoholic carbonates under the names of Lemonade Bomb and Cream Soda Blast Instead the drinks, containing as much alcohol as strong lagers, will led Lemon Jag and

DRIVERS who run their engines while parked at the roadside will be fined under anti-pollution powers being given to local authorities. The

nounced yesterday that it was backing councils calls for more weapons in the war against dirty vehicles. Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, said council staff would also be given the

right to fine drivers or ban vehicles if they failed roadside emissions tests. It is hoped that increasing councils powers will lead to greater sucress in the fight against grossly polluting lorries, taxis, cars and coaches.

Local authorities had also asked to be allowed to stop vehicles as well as test and penalise them, but were opposed by groups such as the Automobile Association which argued that only police officers to be dealt with sensitively. "If Environment Act 1995.

task. The view was endorsed by the Home Office and has been accepted by transport

Mr Norris said: These measures are part of our commitment to improving local air quality. This is an important move forward, allowing local authorities to take action where it is most necessary. There is no reason why a: selfish minority of vehicle owners should allow their

vehicles to pollute our streets." He said it was hoped to bring in the new regulations later this year after trials in pilot areas. A spokesman for the department said the new powers would take into account the need for some commercial vehicles with frozen or

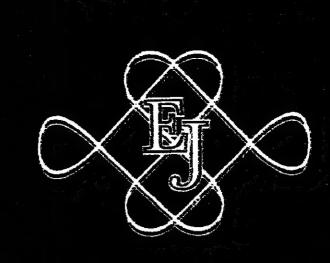
chilled foods to keep their engines running.

had the training for such a it is a hot day and a coach has elderly passengers on board, then they might need to run the air conditioning." he said. The new pollution measures

coincide with an Environment Department announcement that more than 80 local authorities, including all those in London, are to pilot air quality: intiatives. The councils will be asked to outline their plans to curb air pollution incidents that break national and European rules:

A spokesman for the department said it would be looking. for long-term solutions, such as pedestrianisation schemes. Several will be selected and given funding to carry improvements forward to see whether their action plans are

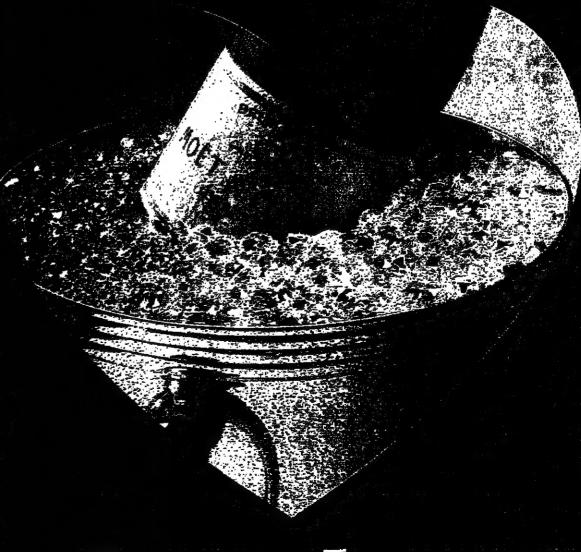
workable. In 1997, all local authorities will be required to meet new Tourist coaches would have air pollution rules under the



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Visit helps to erase ugly memories of papal mission to war-torn region in 1983

Thousands flock to welcome Pope on Latin America tour

By DAVID ADAMS IN CARACAS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Pope's Latin American tour, which ends in Venezuela at the weekend, is helping to erase ugly memories of his first visit to the region in 1983, when Central America was

Governments and revolutionaries were locked in power struggles fanned by the Cold War. In Nicaragua, the Sandiembarrass the Pope, shouting him down at an outdoor rally. In Guatemala, a military dictator sent six people to the firing squad just before the Pope's arrival.

This week, however, the pontiff has been met by large and friendly crowds in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The armed conflicts that raged in Central America have been extinguished in all

The region is now bartling crime, poverty and social injustice, while the radicalism that the Pope encountered on his last visit has been overtaken by a wave of conservatism. Celebrating Mass before 150,000 worshippers in Mana-

gua, the Pope expressed hapoiness at changes that have brought peace to Nicaragua, but alluded to the Sandinista Government's reign as a "long, dark night". The left-wing Sandinistas ruled from 1979 until losing elections to President Chamorro in 1990.

The Pope told worshippers that during his 1983 trip "I could not really meet the people. Since then, many things have changed".

For their part, the Sandinistas apologised for their behaviout in 1983. The former President, Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista Front, took out full-page advertisements in two newspapers and rented billboards to welcome

President Chamorro's term ends after an October election this year and she is not allowed to run again. The opposition Sandinistas remain the largest and best organised of Nicaragua's 30 political parties.

"Thanks to divine providence, peace has returned to your country," the Pope told the crowds who attended the Mass. "The inhabitants of Nicaragua can now enjoy an authentic religious freedom."

As he departed, the Pope challenged the Managua Government and foreign donors to attack poverty, ignorance and joblessness in one of the continent's poorest nations.

President Chamorro, wearing a cross with her long white dress, escorted the pontiff hand-in-hand. A devout Catholic, she called the Pope's visit a dream come true.

It was El Salvador's turn to welcome the Pope yesterday. Hours before dawn, tens of thousands of pilgrims began streaming into a field in the capital for an open-air Mass.

"Pope John Paul II, we love people chanted as the landed at a military airport east of the capital. The flags of El Salvador and the Vatican flew from the cockpit.

There was a heavy police and military presence throughout San Salvador, and crowds gathered along the Pope's six-mile route from the airport. The pontiff was greeted by President Calderón Sol, who knelt to kiss his hand as a

military band played.

Last April the Vatican named the conservative Fernando Sáenz Lacalle as Archbishop of San Salvador.

His appointment marks a radical shift from his predecessors who ministered during the country's decade-long civil war. The most notable of those was Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, whose name was associated with liberation theology, the radical grassroots Catholic church movement that was popular in the

The archbishop was murdered by a right-wing death squad in 1980 after speaking out against the country's poverty and social injustice.

Monsignor Saenz Lacalle shares the Pope's dislike for controversial liberation theology, calling it a "re-reading of the gospel with a

Marxist leaning". He has said that such a religious philosophy has no place in El Salvador.



The Pope, making his second visit to Nicaragua, celebrates Mass in Managua with thousands of worshippers

Succession debate resumes in Rome



IN ROME

THE sight of the Pope obviously suffering in the heat of Central America in his heavy vestments has added to concern in Rome over his deteriorating health.

It emerged yesterday that the Pope undertook the trip his 69th since being enthroned — against the advice of Vatican doctors, who were anxious about the debilitating effect of such a gruelling iourney on the increasingly frail pontiff. At Christmas the

Pope suffered an attack of nausea during his seasonal message and faltered to a stop.
At 75 the Pope is no longer the athletic figure who took over with such vigour 17 years ago, joking that he was not only the first Polish Pope but also the

first one who could ski. He now looks exhausted and moves slowly and stiffly. in part due to illness and in part to the continuing effects of the 1981 assassination attempt. In the Pope's absence, speculation has again risen over the papal succession, with attention focusing on the 68-year-

old Archbishop of Milan, Car-dinal Carlo Maria Martini, Hopes for a Third World Pope rest on Cardinal Francis

Arinze of Nigeria, 63.
Vatican sources point out that fears for the Pope's health when he toured Asia and Australia last year proved to be unfounded. The Pope intends to visit Slovenia in May. when he will turn 76. He also plans to visit Berlin, Budapest and Paris this year, and has said that he hopes to climb Mount Sinai together with Jewish and Muslim leaders to greet the millennium.

Briton is seized in

Bogotá: Left-wing rebels are believed to be holding a Briton. a Dane and a German, seized on a highway northwest of Colombia's capital.

Colombia

Police last night named the Briton as Philip Halten. They blamed the National Liberal tion Army guerrillas for ab-ducting the men at a makeshift roadblock across a remote stretch of the road that links Bogota with the north-west city of Medellin. The guerrilla group, founded by radical Roman Catholic priests in 1966, specialises in kidnapping. (Reuter)

Birthrate up in France

Paris: Metropolitan France's population reached 58.3 million at the end of 1995, a year in which there was a 25 per cent increase in the birthrate after a three-year decline. In all, 529,000 people died and 729,000 were born, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies. The average fertility rate was 1.7 children per woman of child-bearing age, slightly higher than the 1.65 of the two previous years.

Broadcaster shot in throat

Phnom Penh: Ek Mongkol, 40, a popular announcer on Cambodia's FM Radio 90, was shot in the throat after he left the station. The attack is believed to be politically motivated. The station belongs to Prince Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister. Human rights groups have accused intimidate the press. (AP)

East Timorese seek asylum

Jakarta: Nine East Timorese. including two women, asked for political protection from Australia hours after entering its Jakarta embassy, apparently seeking asylum. An embas-

Israeli banks attacked over £3bn loans in kibbutz rescue package

Cardinal Arinze: kindles

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TWO Israeli Cabinet Ministers esterday demanded an inquiry nto allegations that in recent years banks overcharged many of the country's 270 kibbutzim for loans, which the central bank estimates to be worth £3.26 billion.

liquidation. The vast sum involved forced the central bank to deny a report in Yedioth Ahronot which claimed that "correcting the mistakes will put the banks' stability in danger". Share prices of banks were hit for the second day.

Bank Leumi, one of the main Reports said that without the the kibbutzim in a joint rescue

Labour Government, angrily de-nied the allegations. The United Kibbutz Movement, one of the two main kibbutz groupings, rejected calls to have its debt mountain reexamined; it said any possible bank error would be smaller than the debt-forgiveness package.

The financial rescue plan.

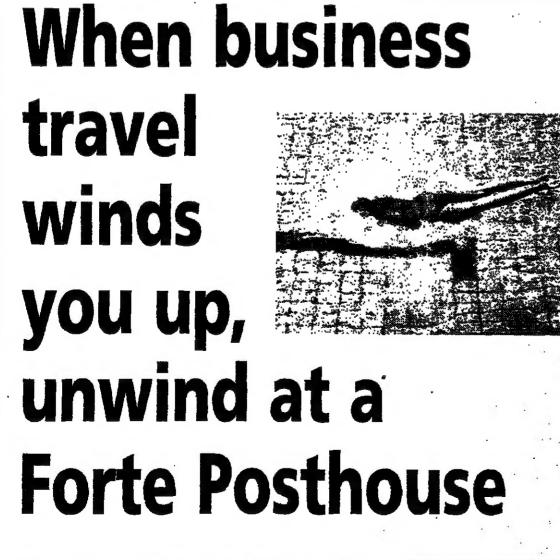
kibbutz was giving way to privati-sation and attempts to increase individual freedoms. Many members were also deserting the kibbutz for life on the outside.

Bank Leumi alleges that the issue is being manipulated by the cash-strapped kibbutzim to squeeze re money out of a Labour Govinstitutions involved in baling out rudiments of which are now com- erament in the run-up to an ing under scrutiny, was launched election. The daily Maariv, in on most Israelis that the socialist financing, at least 100 of the package reached last year with the as the socialist ideology of the criticising the controversial rescue ideals of the kibbutz movement,

package, said it was "a desperate attempt to preserve a socialist way of life in a world where socialism has become, at best, a bad joke." The paper argued that "the State of Israel has no security, economic or social interest in ensuring the artificial existence of those kibbut-

zim whose time has passed."

first set up on the banks of the River Jordan in 1906, were having to give way to capitalist realities. Then: Ein Zivan, a finantially strapped kib-butz on the Golan Heights, thised its communial dining hall and gaid wages according to the value of work performed. This infortated



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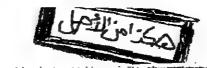
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Have independent schools anything to fear from Labour?



SPORT 35-40

The Don gives a few pointers to England women **TELEVISION** AND **RADIO** Pages 38,39

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9 1996

BT head rejects network concept

By Graham Searjeant THANCIAL EDMOR

HOPES that British Telecom might provide a broad-band communications network receded for ther yesterday. Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's new chief executive, conceded that he did not personally think there would be a single national information

Rome

superhighway.

"The idea of a single fibre-optic network to ev-ery household is wrong he said. Instead, he envisaged a growing patchwork of links between different systems that would evolve at different paces in different places, using mixed technology, possibly in-cluding radio and

The Labour Party has watered down a deal to allow BT earlier access to the entertainment market to justify investment in a superhighway and con-nect schools, bospitals and libraries free. Sir Peter said BT would still accelerate access to a fibre-optic network for schools and possibly hospitals. In the third quarter to

December 31, BT's pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent to 5829 million. Nine-month profits were up 13 per centto £2,44 billion on thenover up 3.4 per cent to £10.7

The gain stemmed al-most entirely from the timing of redundancy million in the quarter against £217 million a year

The bill for 8,000 job eses should still be about £400 million for the year to March 31, suggesting a

Sir Isin Vallance, the chairman, said there had been an encouraging upumes in the quarter. The customer base shrank by 37,000 in the quarter as cable companies took a net

Tempus, page 24

United and MAI to merge in £2.9bn deal

THE consolidation of Britain's media industry gathered pace yesterday when United News & Media, the newspaper publisher, and MAI, the television and financial services group, announced a mercer that will nnancial services group, announced a merger that will create an international group with businesses ranging from the Daily Express to NOP, the opinion poll group.

The proposed merger, which will create a company-

with a market capitalisation of £2.9 billion and turnover of £1:9 billion, came the day after United shares rose 29p to 624p on high volume. The London Stock Exchange is examining the pre-announcement trading to determine if there were any unusual share price move-

Lord Hollick, 51, the manag ing director of MAL, and Lord Stevens of Ludgate, 59, the chairman of United; called the merger a marriage of equals.

together through a tax-free premium to shareholders. A holder of 100 MAI shares will receive 64 United shares, while the holder of 1,000 MAI convertible preference shares will receive 241 United shares.

652p. MAI was up 69p to 448p. United shareholders will own 50.7 per cent of the new group while MAI shareholders will own 49.3 per cent. It seems that MAI, however, will have overall management control Lord Hollick is to become chief executive of the group, which has not yet been named. Sir James McKinnon, the chairman of MAI and former head of Ofgas, the gas regulator, is to become deputy chairman, Lord Stevens will be chairman a position be described as non-executive but

Both companies said they did not expect a compating bid



Lord Hollick and Lord Stevens yesterday. Both said they did not expect a rival bid to thwart their proposed merger

to spoil the deal. There were rumours that Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, would bid for United. Cariton would not comment and its shares fell 32p, to ,022p, on the speculation.

The merger was designed to take advantage of the Government's plans to reduce crossmedia ownership restrictions. The Broadcasting Bill will allow ITV companies to hold as many ITV licences as they want as long as they do not capture more than 15 per cent

of the total audience. Similarly, newspaper companies with less than 20 per cent of the total national newspaper circulation will be able to buy TTV companies.

have two main busine

The merged company will chide MAI's Meridian, Anglia and Channel 5 interests plus United's national and regional newspapers. It will also have United's advertising publications, including Exchange & Mart and Dulton's Weekly.

The business side will include MAI's money and securities broking companies with the exception of Wagon Finance, a car finance company which is being sold with a price tag of about £100 million. It will also include United's PR Newswire, which provides electronic financial information, NOP, and Miller Free-

publishing and trade conference organiser. MAI announced a pre-tax

United's magazine

half year to December 31 against £58.6 million in the previous period. United reported a pre-tax profit of £138 million for the full year to December 31, against £138.2 million previously. After restructuring costs and exceptional items, the 1995 profit was £104.4 million.

United is proposing to pay a second interim dividend of 15.25p, making 23p, un-changed, for the year, MAI is to pay a doubled interim dividend of 4p.

Debt cap expected for all names

EVERY one of the 32,000 Lloyd's of London names is expected to have their debt to the insurance market capped at £100,000, according to

Lloyd's sources.

The upper limit on a name's liability is struck, however, after deducting any payment or debt write-off the name will receive under Lloyd's ambitious £2.8 billion reconstruc-tion and renewal plan. The limit is calculated after any necessary draw down on a name's funds at Lloyd's. which for many is in the form

their homes.
Lloyd's is holding back £100 million of the £2.8 billion to help names who cannot afford to pay their final liability bill and is working on a phased

The R&R plan, aimed at resolving the mass of legal actions taken by thousands of names and at providing them with an affordable exit from the insurance market, is in its final stages. The exit route is via Equitas, a reinsurance company being set up to take over names liabilities in re-

will be used to write off names' debts - in cases when they cannot afford to pay them

£2 billion of debt write-offs and £800 million between the different classes of names.

Lloyd's plans to send the committee's conclusions to names next week. This will be followed next month by statements from Lloyd's "indicating" each names' share of the £2.8 billion as well as their Equites bill.

made yesterday in the House of Lords. Lord Marlesford said he was a victim of the losses incurred at Lloyd's and questioned whether it had been "wholly frank" with the DIII about assets it had to

BUSINESS TODAY

Brent 15-cisy (Apr) \$16.15 (\$16.10)

Second look

at funding

turn for a payment.

Of the package, £2 billion

cannot afford to pay them —
while the remaining £800
million is to compensate
names for their losses.
On Wednesday the Ridley
Committee, chaired by Sir
Adam Ridley, reported to the
Lloyd's ruling council its
methodology for dividing the
£2 billion of debt write-offs

☐ Calls for an investigation to be launched into Lloyd's were

of investor scheme BY CAROLINE MERRELL THE Personal investment Au-

thority is reviewing the funding of the investors Compensation Scheme for the second time in six months.

It has already drawn up plans to change substantially the funding of the ICS, which has been dogged by controversy over the past few years. This latest consultation paper is a further attempt to try to ensure the long-term viability of the scheme.

The ICS was set up by the Government to protect investing members of the public against the failure or fraud of a particular investment company.

Most firms declared in default of the ICS have been independent financial advisers. The structure of the maining IFAs and the companies that transacted most of their business through IFAs had to pay the compensation bill. The result was that good firms ended up paying for the actions of the bad.

The ICS reached a crisis last year when Sun Life secured a indicial review of this funding arrangement. The uncertainty forced the Treasury to offer a £17 million lifeline.

After this, the ICS proposed the introduction of a prefunding arrangement, under which all PIA members would pay an annual subscription totalling E15m to cushion against losses.

The paper issued yesterday puts forward a suggestion under which all PIA members would contribute to the scheme according size. This proposal is likely to anger the banks and building societies, which maintain they have their own com-

Standard Life stance hurts Farnell's £1.8bn bid plan

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

FARNELL, the electronics distribution company, yesterday suffered a setback in its £1.8 billion bid to buy Premier industrial, the US-based company, when Standard Life, one of its main institutional share holders, revealed it would not support the proposals.

The Premier purchase has

aroused controversy since it was announced last month because it would result in Farnell more than doubling its in the company's debt pile. Graham Wood, head of UK equities at Standard Life, justi-

size and lead to a big increase fied the decision on the gounds that the fund management group believes the premium is too high, that the deal would dilute earnings and that Farnell will be encumbered

with £430 million worth of

debt. But the company's unusual decision to publicise its position angered Howard Poulson, chairman of Farnell. Mr Poulson said: "We are very disappointed that Standard Life has rather jumped the gun. We only had a short

ting with Standard Life in which to put our case.*

But Mr Poulson remained confident that the deal would still be approved, stating that he believed the overwhelming majority of shareholders still upported the deal.

Guy Jubb, corporate governance manager at Standard-Life, defended the decision to go public, ahead of the extraordinary general meeting

He said: "We feel it is right that we make our position clear so other shareholders

The Premier deal has created a lot of interest in the media." He added that Standard Life did not want to sell its stake in Famell although a

sale remained the ultimate But Standard Life's views appeared not to be shared by other big shareholders such as Mercury Asset Management, who announced yesterday that it had increased its stake in the company from 12.1 per cent to

Another large shareholder, Scottish Widows, which holds 5.3 per cent; said it was backing the deal. Farnell's share price slipped

back 3p to 642p.

Amstrad confident despite losses



AMSTRAD, the electronics group that announced 150 redundancies earlier this week, has disclosed firsthalf losses of £5.4 million.But the interim dividend is increased to 1.25p

a share from In. As a result, Alan Sugar, chairman and largest single shareholder, can expect to take home about £510,000 in dividend payments. He is also paid an annual salary of £195,000.

The company said the increase in dividend was meant as a signal to investors that Amstrad is turning the corner. Mr Sugar said he expects Dancall. Amstrad's mobile phone manufacturing subsidiary, to make a healthy profit in the second half.

Earlier this week, Amstrad said it would restructure, cut its workforce mainly in Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) — by 150 and close one of its factories, costing it £4 million.
The company made a £25,000 profit

in the corresponding period last year. and Tony Dean, finance director, be in the red this half. We don't expect to make any further provisions for

restructuring, and we hope to see some strength now." Viglen International, which sells

computers in the professional market, was profitable in the six months to December 31, while Dancall, bought by Amstrad in 1993, had made a respectable profit" in December as overcame a delay of four months in meeting production levels. Mr Sugar said that the full-year results should,

therefore, be encouraging.

Analysts cut their full-year profit forecasts from between £15 million and £20 million to nearer £10 million However, the rosier picture for the second half and next year pushed the share price higher, rising 18p to 201p.

The results weren't very good, but there is plenty of room for them to grow again," said Andrew Bryant, analyst with NatWest Securities. "ACE should be back in profit in 1997, the Viglen market is growing and there is confidence that Dancall could become a real competitor to the likes of Nokia and Ericsson."

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The state of the s



Mersey Docks shares

fall as offer rejected

Business start-ups increase

The number of businesses in the UK reached 3.7 million in 1995, the highest level for more than four years. According to Barclays Bank, the total business stock increased 1.6 per cent over 1994.

The bank's figures show that 448,000 sole occupation businesses started up in 1995, compared with 430,000 in 1994. an increase of four per cent. Mainstream business closures rose two per cent year-on-year to 440,000. The main growth was in individuals setting up in self-employment on top of full-time occupation.

TI venture

TI GROUP, through its Bundy Asia Pacific joint venture, is to invest \$3 million in a new factory in China to supply compopents a new car plant set up by Citroën, the French company, in Wuhan. Hubei province, where it is to produce its ZX model.

French cut

The Bank of France yesterday cut its key intervention rate, which sets the floor for money market interest rates, to 3.90 per cent from 4.05 per cent. The five-toten day lending rate was unchanged at 5.60 per

TOURIST RATES

Latest salvoes fired in the battle over single currency

Business leaders lambaste EMU

By Patricia Tehan

SOME of the UK's most senior business leaders have launched a scathing attack on European monetary union, arguing it would bring higher interest rates and unemployment and harm business

competitiveness. The criticism came from Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, Sir John Hoskyns, chairman of Burton, Sir Alick Rankin, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of Charter, Sir Emmanuel Kaye,

chairman of Kaye Enterprises. Stanislas Yassukovich, chairman of the City Research project, and Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors.

Their stance against economic and monetary union (EMU) was in stark contrast to the sentiments expressed by Dr Ronaldo Schmitz, chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, yesterday. He said that stopping the introduction of EMU would have disastrous implications for the single market and for Europe's position in the world. The

business leaders were writing in Business Agenda, a publication by the centre-right European Research Group. Sir Stanley said business

"must now gird its loins and fight with eerie weapon ... against those who seek to sell out the UK to a federal Europe . Sir John questioned whether the single currency was conceivable without European unification, while Sir Alick said that to join EMU "we must meet tough convergence criteria, pay up a huge entrance fee and put on a monetary corset". There is

growing consensus among British bankers that the deadline for the introduction of a single currency in 1998 should be delayed until economic criteria are in place.

On Monday Eddie George Governor of the Bank of England, said proceeding too quickly towards a single currency could cause serious political tensions. But at the German-British Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Dr Schmitz said: "Stopping the EMU train would spell disaster. It would mean running the risk of the hard core

System breaking apart." This. he said, would mean that

Dr Schmitz said: "I would like to see the UK exert a much greater influence over the design of the EU economic framework". If sterling did not rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism by spring this year, it would not be eligible for EMU in 1998, he added.

LIVERPOOL dockworkers have rejected an offer from Mersey Docks & Harbour Company worth £8 million to "continental Europe would Mersey Docks & Harbour Company worth as ministrative settle an unofficial dispute that closed part of the port for six weeks last year. The dockers, dismissed last September for refusing to cross a picket line, rejected the offer of £20,000 to £25,000 per employee by 271 votes to 50. A spokesman for the Transport & General Workers Union said a meeting would fall back into recurring competitive devaluations, with negative repercussions for the development of the single market as a whole". be held today to discuss further action.

Mersey Docks shares fell 34p to 403p over fears that strikers would seek support from dockers abroad. The dispute

who were dismissed by a stevedoring company, unconnected with Mersey Docks, which has since gone out of business. Hanson fall continues

cost the company £4 million. Mersey Docks said yesterday

that pressure had been put on the dockers to reject the offer. However the company left open the possibility that employees could still claim their share of the settlement. The

strikers were demanding employment for 80 other dockers

SHARES in Hanson, the Anglo-American diversified industrial conglomerate, fell by 5p to 185p yesterday. At the end of the day 16.32 million shares had been traded. Hanson shares have fallen from 210p since the proposed demerger of the company into four separate units was announced last week, reducing its stock market capitalisation by about £1.29 billion to £9.6 billion. Yesterday Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency; said that the rating of the demerged Hanson businesses

US phone merger off

THE planned \$25 billion merger between Bell Atlantic and Nynex, two of America's largest telephone companies, has been put off in favour of a more modest joint venture. The new plan is to set up a joint venture in the long distance telephone market, which would not bring the companies the same massive cost savings as a merger. The Bell Atlantic/ Nynex talks have been prompted by the Telecommunication Bill, signed by President Clinton yesterday, which deregulates the market. It would have been the largest merger in US corporate history, but is proving to be too complex to complete.

Zeneca to buy drug

migraine treatment. Final terms of the deal are still being negotiated. The drug 311C90 is in Phase III trials, the final clinical test stage before a drug can be filed for registration. The global migraine market is expected to be worth £1.5 billion by the year 2000. Glaxo is divesting the product as part of the conditions laid down by the US Federal Trade Commission when the company took over Wellcome last year. Glaxo said the sale process would not interrupt the drug's clinical trial development.

Westminster HC ahead

WESTMINSTER HEALTH CARE, the nursing home and medical services group, said occupancy rates continued to be under pressure. There were regional variations in performance and the company's development programme is likely to be biased towards the South East. In the half year to November 30, the company lifted pre-tax profits to £8 million from £6.3 million. Earnings were II. Ip a share, rising from 9.9p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.35p a share from

CBI calls on Blair to spell out policies By Philip Bassett, industrial editor crucial that these advantages are not put at risk."

BUSINESS leaders last night said that Britain's economic strengths must not be jeopardised by a Labour govemment uncommitted to stable

economic policies. Although Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, welcomed the shifts in Labour policy towards a more probusiness approach under Tony Blair, the CBI challenged Labour to provide specific details for business on a range of economic policies.

Government ministers were angered when Mr Turner recently advocated a rise in real wages as part of economic growth, and some are sceptical about the CBI's declared policy under Mr Turner of political neutrality in the run-up to a general election, arguing openly that business ought to support the Conservatives.

But they will be more satis-fled by Mr Turner's clear attempt last night in a speech at a CBI dinner in Manchester to but pressure on Labour to flesh out the bones of its policies on the economy and business.

Mr Turner praised the UK's stable macroeconomy, low inflation and flexible labour mar-

He said: "While the Labour party has made some appar-

ent shifts in policy towards a more pro-business approach, there are key areas where business disagrees with Lab-Business was concerned

about four specific areas: ☐ Inflation: Welcoming Labour's "overall" commitment to low inflation, he said: "Business confidence would increase if Labour committed itself to a specific inflation

☐ Tax: Labour should set specific targets for the top rate of tax and National Insurance, and clearly stated spending priorities.

| Social chapter: Emphasis-

ing the support of business for the Government's opt-out from the EU social chapter, he said that business "does not want to see it ended. We are very concerned about the Labour party's commitment to do so" - and would be even more so if Labour supported extending qualified majority voting in the EU in this area. ☐ Stakeholding: Having

launched the word into the political domain, Mr Blair



David Southworth, managing director, with John Atkin, finance director, of P&P Group, where profits rose 57 per cent to £12.6 million in the year to November 30. There is a final dividend is 2p, payable on May 11, making a total of 3.15p (2.6p)

Retail sales continue to rise

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITION RETAIL sales are still rising.

according to figures today from British industry on sales volumes in the high street. The Confederation of British Industry's monthly distributive

trades survey shows continuing strong sales growth in January after early sales activity the previous month. The CBI's survey, covering

15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor

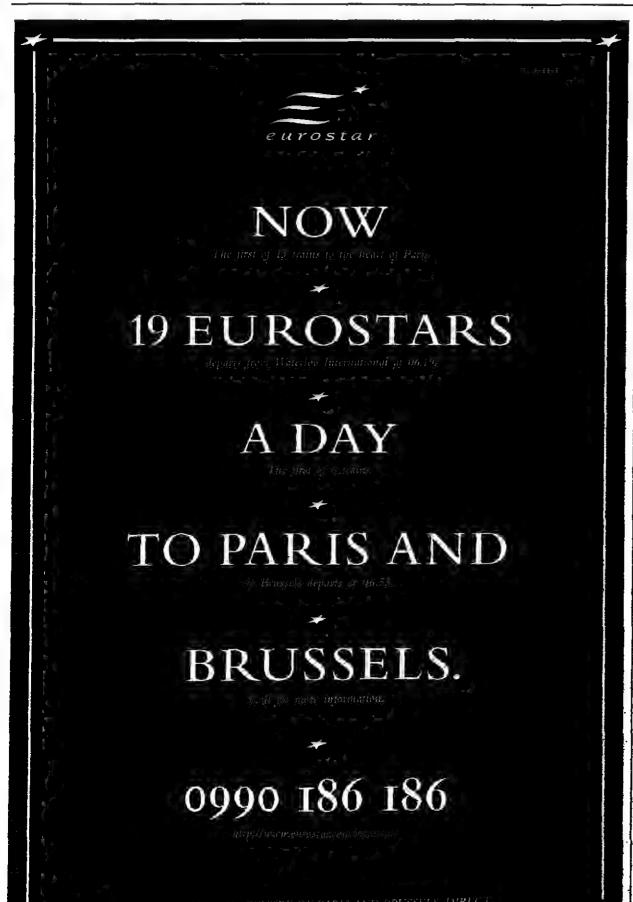
months, after a year of uneven quate retailers expect a slightvolume growth. In January, the balance of rundown in levels this month.

retailers reporting an increase in sales volumes — those regis-tering a rise against those recording a fall — stayed at 31 per-cent. Annual sales this month are expected to continue to rise, at a slightly higher rate. Trade in the high street in

January was above average for the same of year for the

Grocers, chemists, and footwear retailers saw the highest rises in sales volumes comp ared with a year ago, while confectionery, tobacco and newspaper outlets saw their first fall since February 1994.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBFs distributive trades panel, says: "Underlying volumes, as measured by the



HAVE YOU HEARD TOO MUCH ABOUT MONEY AND SPORT?

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2.5 billion Australian dollars will be spent on the Sydney 2000 Olympics even before the flame is lit at the opening ceremony. As a result Australia's GDP is expected to rise by A\$7.3 billion. To make sure British companies get the most out of this trading explosion, the Sydney Olympics UK Business Task Force is organising a unique seminar in London on Thursday, February 15th. Admission is £150

Speakers will include the key decision makers responsible for all Sydney Olympic contracts: the New South Wales Minister for the Olympics and the Director General of the Olympic Co-ordination Authority. Business opportunities are likely to arise in the following sectors: insurance, banking, engineering, construction, facilities and services.

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gami

☐ Their Lordships announce a marriage ☐ Sparks fly at Farnell ☐ The perils of remaining mutual

☐ "THE benefits of synergy". MAI presents a United front

like one careful owner or would suit DIY fanatic", is one of those phrases that should ring alarm bells for potential buyers. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines synergy as "the combined effect of drugs, organs, etc, that exceeds the sum of their individual effects". Corporate financiers define synergy as the easiest way they know to separate over-ambitious managements from massive fees.

Lords Stevens and Hollick define synergy, as far as one can tell from yesterday's merger of their respective companies, in two ways. There is the ability to advertise TV stations in newspapers that are within the same holding company, and the corres-ponding ability to advertise papers on those same TV stations.

tan sun fall contin

Somme merger,

Principal to buy dra

YOU O MUC AONEY

Then there is the wrapping up of all the boring but profitable business services within both groups, which tend to miss out on the media attention to the rather sexier TV stations and newspapers, into one operation which can then sell to the same. client list. One option is to crosssell exhibitions, newsletters, market research and specialised business magazines while merging their individual manage-

On top of these, there are rather less well-defined prospects for expansion as a larger group into electronic publishing and other more rarified areas.

The first thought is that MAI and United are swimming against the prevailing tide in creating a cross-media, whisper it who dares, conglomerate, at a time when Hanson and British Gas, albeit for different reasons, are busy unbundling. But media is probably the only area where the creation of a conglomerate makes sense - why else is the Government so concerned with the rules that allow this? -

As part of this marriage, MAI gets its hands on the cash flow from rather more mature media businesses within United such as exhibitions, regional papers, periodicals and so on, with which to expand into who knows where. United gets proven management, in the form of Lord, sorry Clive, Hollick and his team and a semblance of a coherent strategy that has never been available for view since it became apparent the

Express titles could not be sold. Note the departure of Graham Wilson, seen as Lord Stevens's right-hand man in the City. Should Stevens and Hollick even come to blows over policy, the betting must be that the latter

MAI will not stop here, and the purchase of yet another ITV franchise-holder, perhaps York-shire Tyne-Tees, looks the next step. In this they will be taking part in this year's expected carveup of the ITV map — in
competition with Cariton, the
chosen buyer of the Express titles
until Michael Green lost patience with Lord Stevens.

Some questions for Standard Life

☐ WHAT on earth is going on at Farnell, a solid and respectable distributor of all sorts of useful electronic bits and bobs that would not normally trouble the scorer in the great corporate governance handicap? PENNINGTON



Two weeks ago Farnell announced a £1.8 billion purchase of an equally uncharismatic but much bigger US business. Part of the deal, ambitious but put together by a team whose record suggested they were ready for such a challenge, was a £350 million rights issue.

Before such an issue can be launched, it is pre-marketed, This involves a traipse around the biggest institutional holders, and Farnell has at least seven with two per cent or more including Standard Life, to see if they will back the move and underwrite the issue.

Just what took place between

Farnell and the institutions is do with your wish frustrated when you were made an insider rightly shrouded in secrecy, but ahead of the deal, to take profits there were precious few squawks on some of your stake in Farnell? from any as the underwriting fees were being counted. The deal caused some concern among some large shareholders Britannia walks

at the size of the step planned, a fine line and the management set out to ☐ THE first building society to announce a mutuality benefits allay this with, to date, some 60 presentations. But Standard Life was apparently not one of those package for members was the National & Provincial. Within who expressed such concern. months, the society fell victim to the predatory attentions of the Now the Scottish institution

has taken the unprecedented step of saying it will oppose the deal at next week's extraordinary meeting, even if other institutions with much bigger stakes

look like supporting it.
Four questions should be put
to Standard Life. Is this, and the weekend assault against Michael Green's salary, just a highprofile public relations exercise, hitched to the fashionable corporate governance bandwagon? Did you initially agree to support the rights? If so, why the subsequent change of heart?

And has all of this anything to

dends, as such payouts depend on future profits. They argued that, if margins were squeezed, the distribution to members would be put in jeopardy.

The Britannia, however, seems set to follow the dividend route, believing that this is the way to persuade its members to buy even more of its products. But there is no guarantee that they will remain true. Aspiring borrowers may still spurn the Britannia if it cannot match the

rates available elsewhere. The Britannia believes that it is acting to safeguard its independence by depleting its reserves. A miscalculation about how much it will pay and in what form could still be fatal.

The real alternative

DISTURBING signs that arch-dry Peter Lilley is in danger of going native at the Depart-ment of Social Security. Defending job cuts at the DSS, he told the Today programme that "the alternative obviously is to take the money away from benefits". A telling slip, Mr Lilley. Individual benefits are fixed, although the total bill may be rising. So you are required to make cuts because the alternative is taking more money off the taxpayer.

Struggling Apple admits Q2 loss will exceed \$69m

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

APPLE Computer, the struggling American personal computer group, expects to incur a bigger loss in the second quarter of its financial year than the \$69 million loss it reported for the first quarter. Gilbert Amelio, the new chief executive, also said that the company had pulled out of talks with all potential

The forecast loss is part of a new publicity offensive by the company to clear the decks after a senior management shake-up last week.

Apple is attempting to perstude customers and the stock market that it is still in control of its own destiny after several months of disastrous trading figures, intense takeover spec-Michael Spindler as chief

recutive a week ago. Mr Amelio said that the second-quarter loss would be partly the result of further. ssential restructuring costs

within the company. He said that in spite of the bad financial results, the foundations of Apple's business were sound and that steps the company was taking to turn. itself round in the next few months would boost profitability. The company is scheduled to report its second-. quarter results in April. Mr Amelio's denial that



Amelio: pulled out of talks about 8 per cent.

Apple was in bid talks with any other company appeared to scotch rumours of an imminent takeover by Sun Microsystems with whom Apple has been negotiating

Mr Amelio said that the persistent takeover rumours had damaged Apple's performance and its share price, which is now about \$28, down from \$50 a few months ago.

The company has been taking out full-page advertisements in leading newspapers
over the past few days, pointing out its strengths and
promising that it can survive ndependently.

However, analysts believe Mr Amelio has an uphili struggle to salvage Apple's that it can recover from a string of strategic blunders as well as protect its share of the personal computer market, which has shrunk recently from more than 10 per cent to

Stakis casino for Ladbroke

LADBROKE the hotels and betting company, is expanding its casino operations with the £27.5 million purchase of the Barracuda Casino from Stakis, the leisure group (Alasdair Murray writes).

Ladbroke was one of the leading

casino operators in the UK until it lost its licence in 1979 for contravening gaming regulations, an action that resulted in a halving of group profits that year. But since 1994, the company

has made a comeback, buying three central London casinos, although it is concentrating on expansion overseas.

Stakis has decided to sell the casino to concentrate on its chain of mid-

market provincial casinos. The Barracuda, in Baker Street, is one of central London's largest casinos, with 16 gaming tables. It attracts gamblers who spend £400-£500 a night. In the year to October I, 1995, it made £2.7 million on turnover of £45 million.

Stop claims clock, says SIB

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB) yesterday urged insurers to follow the lead of the Prudential and not to dismiss claims of pension misselling because they are late (Sara McConnell writes). The industry's review of cases to uncover and compensate victims has fallen badly behind schedule and SLB was replying to a letter from Bill Day, national pensions officer of the GMB union. expressing concern that many claim-

Abbey National.
This awful memory does not

seem to haunt those societies

who have announced similar loyalty schemes since designed to

prove their commitment to mutuality. The latest is the

Britannia, which has been work-

ing on the project since last summer. In the interim the

Yorkshire and the Bradford &

Bingley have produced schemes

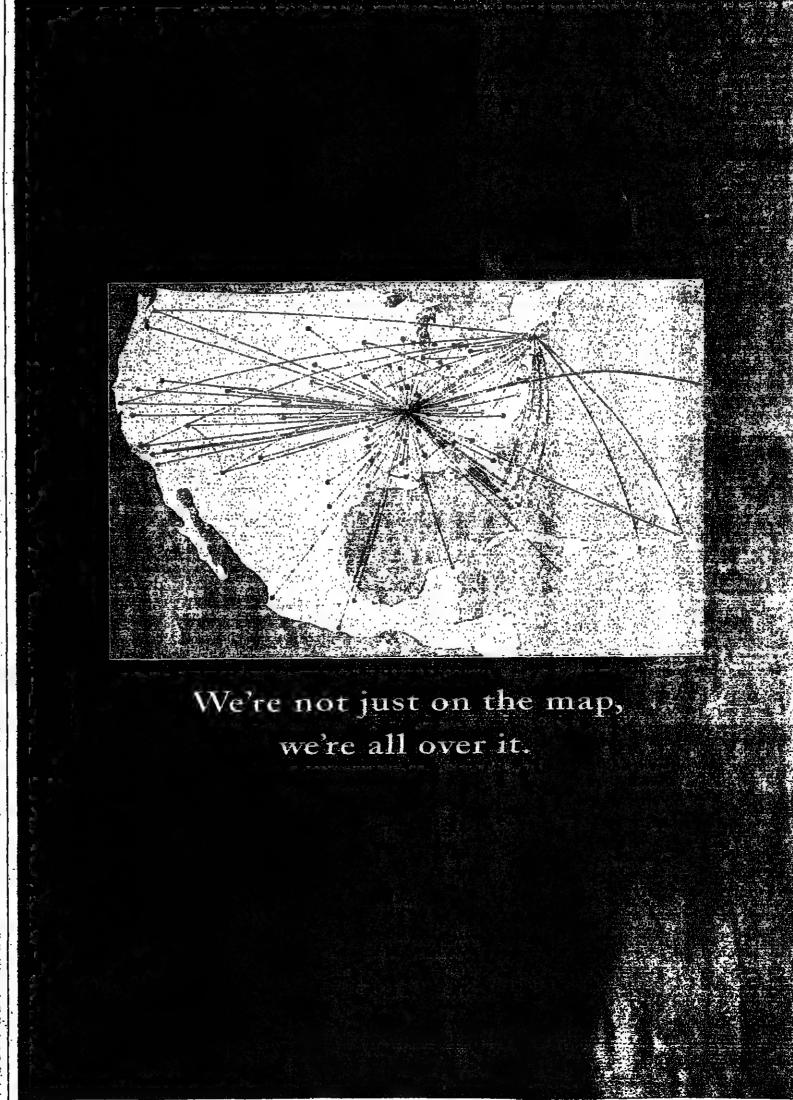
to give value to members in the

shape of lower mortgage rates

and competitive savings deals. Both were against paying divi-

ants could be barred because of the time factor. Mr Day warned they may

be forced to resort to the courts. SIB told Mr Day: "SIB has no legal power to impose this course [relaxing time limitations]. However, the company which SIB regulates directly, the Prudential, has indicated that it will take this approach and we believe it would be in the best interests of all concerned if others were to give a



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We're up to something good.

Britannia to reward members with cash BY KAREN ZAGOR

THE Britannia Building Society plans to reward members with annual eash handouts, adding a new twist to the ways inwhich societies are rewarding loyal members (Pennington, this page). Until now, societies have

opted to increase savings and cut morigage rates in an attempt to show members that mutuality is as beneficial in the long run as merging or converting to publicly held banks. The Britannia's move

expected to be announced officially tomorrow, comes closest to the cash and/or shares rewards offered to members of societies that are merging or converting. The size of the cash incentive will be pegged to the amount a member borrows or saves. The Britan-nia hopes this will encourage members to use an ever-widening range of

products. The mortgage rate cuts offered by the Yorkshire and Northern Rock societies may appeal to borrowers keen on lower monthly payments, but they are unlikely to convince members to put more money into other products.

Bradford & Bingley. which is reducing its variable lending rate by 0.25 percentage points at the same time as increasing savings rates by an average of 0.25 of a point, is more likely to convince customers to both save and

borrow with the society. The Britannia's cash payments are likely to be popular with savers and borrowers, but the commitment to pay cash every year could become a straitjacket

News Int notches up £168m profit

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

owner of The Times, reported first-half profits of £168.9 million yesterday, in spite of a £42.1 million charge against the closure of Today. In the same period of the previous year, the company made a profit of £561.9 million, but that included a one off £400.4 mil-

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

cent of its shares in BSkyB, the miellie broadcester. The company made an operating profit in the first half,

lion gain on the sale of 20 per

ending December 31 last year. of £76.2 million, an increase of 36 per cent. Its newspapers, which include The Sunday. Times, The Sun and News of. the World, have continued to strengthen their market position through increased circulation and growth in advertising revenue, it said. BSkyB, in which News International holds 40 per cent, has

operating profits of \$492 miltion for the same period. Leslie Hinton, News International chief executive, said: "We are delighted with these excellent results, achieved in a brutally competitive market

profitability and in the num-

per of subscribers, which rose

from 4.16 million to 5.18 mil-

lion in the period. News International is a subsidiary

of The News Corporation, which on Wednesday reported

We are especially pleased that we have been able to maintain, and in some cases increase, the circulation of our titles despite the necessity to raise cover prices in response to significantly higher news

The company will pay an interim dividend to special dividend shareholders of 1.68p

Bass hurt by loss in gaming division

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Bass, the brewing and leisure company, fell 7p to 736p yesterday after it revealed that profits in its gaming division had fallen 30 per cent because of had weather and the impact of the National

Sir lan Prosser, chairman, said that earnings in the first 16 weeks of the financial year had grown in line with expectations apart from in the Bass

leisure division. Admissions at the Gala bingo clubs fell 6 per cent, although the average spend rose 25 per cent. Turnover from Coral bookmakers, was up 6 per cent but average turnover per shop was down 8 per cent because of the re-

duced winter racing season.

Holiday Inn Worldwide, the hotels division, saw profits rise Revenue per room rose 4 per cent in the US and 10 per cent in Europe.

Bass Taverns, the compa ny's pub division, operated an increased number of outlets for the first time in four years. Drink takings rose 7 per cent. while food revenues were up 50 per cent and machine revenues increased 2 per cent. Bass's brewing division in-

creased beer volumes 1 per cent, while off-licence trade rose 10 per cent. Sir Ian said: "I remain confident that the group will make good progress through the rest of this financial year."

Tempus, page 24



Speculators go on bid alert after MAI deal

sector, as the City braced itself for a spate of takeovers and mergers after news of the proposed £2.9 billion merger of United News & Media and

Speculators did not have long to wait to find out the reason behind Wednesday's flurry of activity in shares of United News, publisher of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star. But details of the merger with MAI, owner of Anglia Television and the controlling shareholder in Meridian, the independent television broadcaster holding the franchise for the South of England. surprised the market.

It had been assumed in the Square Mile that United was preparing to dispose of its stable of national newspapers. MAI shareholders will get 64 United shares for every 100

Brokers described it a defensive move by MAI, which had itself been seen as a possible takeover target. The speculators refuse to rule out the possibility of a bid for MAI from other quarters. MAI finished 69p higher at 448p with almost 31 million shares changing hands. United News was 28p up at 652p on turnover of 15 million shares.

But last night Carlton Communications, which holds the London weekday independent television franchise, was being ruled out as possible bidder for MAI. Carlton finished 32p lower at £10.22. Nevertheless, the speculation excited the market which had been pinning its hopes on a spate of takeovers and stakebuilding exercises after the Government's relaxation of crossmedia ownership rules.

Those companies seen as potential takeover targets include Pearson, up 5p at 690p, whose name was being linked with Viacom, the US media group. There were also gains for The Telegraph, up Sp at 463p, and Mirror Group, op

Among the television companies. Scottish TV continues to be viewed as a takeover target, with the shares adding 12p at 606p, while gains were also seen in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, up 53p to 900p, and

News International, owner of The Times and 40 per cent shareholder of BSkyB, firmed lp to 304p. The company



Coral's profits have been hit by the National Lottery

£168.9 million before tax. Last year's comparable figure of £501.9 million included a £401 million profit arising from the sale of part of its stake in BSkyB: This year's figure was struck before costs of £42.1 million relating to the closure

of Today newspaper. The market is certain to test the 3,700 level today after extending recent losses.

Wellcome responded with a rise of 2p to 933p, while Zeneca hardened 14p to E12.56. Better than expected thirdquarter figures cheered BT and were reflected in the share

price which rose 24 p to 359p.

taking issued by the European

Commission to dispose of the

drug when it bought Wellcome last year, Glaso

Monument Oil & Gas edged ahead &p to 60 p, supported by a buy recommendation from NatWest Securities. It says the weak gas market has overshadowed the value of Monument's Liverpool Bay gas contracts. NatWest has faith in Monument's management, and says the company is focusing again on future growth.

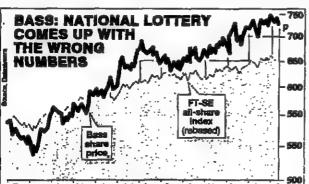
Shrugging off another recordbreaking run overnight on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 index finished 17.7 down at 3,708.4.

Zeneca is moving in on the fast-growing migraine market with the purchase of Glaxo Wellcome's new treatment

The drug is currently undergoing clinical trials. Glaxo agreed to abide by an under-

The market had been looking for pre-tax profits of between £750 million and £790 million, so the final outcome of £829 million exceeded even the most optimistic of forecasts. The market was also pleased with the group's pledge to settle the dispute with Oftel, the regulatory authority, by August without it being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Series Apr. Jul. Oct Apr. Jul. Oct.



plunged into the red during the first six months was coun tered by a brighter outlook for the second half and an increase in the dividend. Alan Sugar, chairman, said he does not expect to take any further exceptional charges.
He expects the amalgar

ation of Amstrad Direct and Viglen to save £3 million a year. The shares perked up with a rise of 17p to 200p as more than 7 million were

Hard on the heels of this week's profits warning from Allied Domeon, down 4p at 507p, comes news from rival Bass that it being hit by the National Lottery. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told share holders at the annual meeting that although most of the businesses had been doing well, betting and bingo had suffered in the first three

The leisure retailing division had seen turnover plunge 30 per cent with Gala hit by the lottery and the Coral chain of betting shops hurt by falls in both margins and turnover. Bass reacted to the news with a fall of 9p to 734p.
Lloyds Chemists firmed a

further 3p to 470p after recomending the counter-bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group, worth 450p a share. That compares with a offer of around 405p a shar from UniChem, which is es pected to come back with price of between 470p an 480p a share valuing Lloyd Chemists at £588 million UniChem finished 3p easier

⊇930. □ GILT-EDGED: Attempt to extend the previous day gains lacked conviction. wit investors anxiously awaiting the outcome of last night's \$1 billion US Treasury bond 30 year auction.

In the futures pit, the Marc series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits for much of th session before ending a tic lower at £1094 in thin trading completed.

Conventional issues fin ished mixed with Treasury per cent 2013 a tick off a £1002, while at the shorter end. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick firmer at £10413/32. ■ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street paused for breath and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.58 points lower at 5,484.54.

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More risk, less reward

WOULD you put your money in a business that invests £25 billion a year on immobile infrastructure, knowing that the return will be decided bureaucratically after the event by its worst enemy? Amazingly, however, British Telecom still has 25 million shareholders content to see it underperform a rising stock market average indefinitely. The hope has always been that the market

would grow so fast that there would be room for everyone, including the Director-General of Telecommunications. That hope was shaken during the faltering recovery. In the nine months to end-December, group turnover rose by only 3.4 per cent and that depended on BT's share of 34 per cent growth at Cellnet. In the third quarter there was some renewed pick-up in domestic call volumes. But BT is losing a net 100,000 customers a

quarter to cable, and this should accelerate with easy number portability. Increased use of the system is therefore largely profitless and investment in extra capacity hard to justify on such a scale. Pre-tax profits, up 13 per cent so far, were

flattered by low redundancy charges. Since the annual target remains the same, that just leaves more for the final quarter. Operating profits are static. Oversees expansion owes more to strategy than to near-term profit hopes, so any worthwhile profit growth relies on BT marketing expanding the market. The shares sell at under 12 times likely 1995.

96 earnings but the comfort is in the 6.5 per cent dividend yield. That is 75 per cent above the market average, making BT an ideal defensive holding if you like regulatory risk-and expect the share index to turn down.

aging production is ap-

proaching larget levels and a healthy profit contribution is

expected in the second half.

The mobile phone market

currently resembles the per-

sonal computer market of

ten years ago, the sort of

business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both

encouragement and a warn-

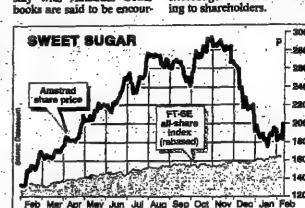
Amstrad

AMSTRAD shareholders have absorbed a few shocks over the years but they will have received a severe jolt from yesterday's disclosure of a £5.4 million loss in the six months ending December 31. Fortunately, Alan Sugar, the chairman, was able to wax lyrical on some good news about the com-

pany and current operations. Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the probems at the core, loss-making tronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payrol

headcount by i50 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to



Bass

BASS has been linked with almost every recent bid ru-mour in the brewing and leisure sectors. Gossips have matched Bass with Ladbroke, Vaux, Wetherspoon and Carlsberg-Tetley, but the company has so far remained

Bass is in the luxurious position of having the means to launch a bid without feeling any pressure to buy. Coyly confessing that it would look at opportunities. Bass emphasises that organic growth remains important. Yesterday's trading state-

prises. The fall in the gambling division blamed on the exceptional winter chill which hurt Coral, the bookmaker. The lottery continues to affect trading but the impact has now been absorbed by the market. While admissions to the Gala Bingo clubs have fallen. Bass is reassured by

Bass has enjoyed a welldeserved rise in its share price for a year. After yesterday's setback, the shares trade on a forward earnings multiple of around 16. Without an acquisition, the shares look fairly priced:

deliver profits at ACE will

hasten the day of its closure.

More encouraging results

and forecasts came from

Amstrad's other businesses.

particularly Dancall, the Danish mobile phone maker

and the computer direct sales

Dancall is the reason to

stay with Amstrad, Order

Goldsmiths

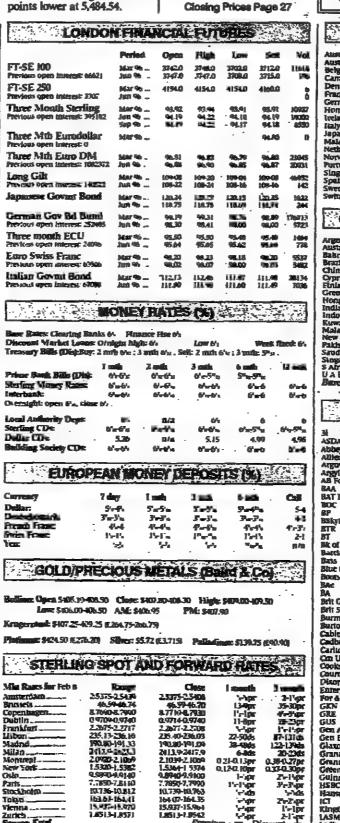
IN THE good old days, an honest householder who suf-fered a burglary or flood could expect to receive a cheque from an insurance company for the value of his stolen or destroyed property. Today's distressed victim. may soon have to put up with. place his video recorder at Dixons, carpets at Carpet-Goldsmiths.

Fraud has made insurers more reluctant to hand money over to policyholders directly and Norwich Union has found a cunning way to keep part of the mountain of cash that leaves the company

Norwich has given Goldsmiths an exclusive right to supply replacement jewellery and watches to its policyholders, an arrangment that covers some £10 million in claims annually. The claimant will be offered a replacement from Goldsmiths. which in turn will offer Norwich a discount of about 20 per cent on the cost of the

Goldsmiths reckons that the deal could eventually add up to 56 million to its turnover - claims for antiques or rare Items may still be paid in cash by Norwich. Such a guaranteed stream of busistreet retailer, certainly worth giving away almost half of the gross margin to the business provider. Norwich too will benefit to the tune of £1.5 million per year in savings. Only the poor policyholder suffers. However, he can always take his business to another insurer.

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Paper, pen and digital

NEVER say the President of the United States is not trendy. Jumping on the new technology bandwag-on, Bill Clinton yesterday signed the new Telecom-munications Bill — which deregulates the entire US phone industry - with a digital pen on a digital pad. Result the Bill, plus President's signature. went out on the World Wide Web. But was a digital signature legally and constitutionally binding? Unfortunately, the White House did not know. Anyway, no one was taking risks. To be on the safe side, Clinton also signed the Bill in ink on paper. Some things will probably never change.

Poles and holes

THE extrovert London tones of Sir Peter Bonfield are signalling a radical culture change of a sort at British Telecom. Sir Peter, fresh into the chief executive's seat from ICL, explains that he has spent his first 40 days "up the poles and down the holes" to get to know his new company as well as meeting regulators in four countries. As it turns mut, Sir Peter has not had enough safety train-ing to be allowed up the poles yet, but spent two hours down a hole in East London's Commercial road heiping engineers to make repairs and not-ing cabling 50 years old.

Book to order

THE Royal Canadian Mounted Police are first on the list for a new book. to be launched next week. on How Not to be a Money Launderer. Nigel Morris-Cotterill, the author, re-ceived the Mountles vert for his new book went live on the Internet. A £20 cheque has already arrived from the Canadian Mounted Police College in Ottawa, and the author has pinned the counterfoil to his wall



"It's good to talk

Rat pickings

ENOUGH of Fat Cats. Let's turn to British Rats, whose year, Chinese style, begins on February 19. Traditionally. Rat years are ones of opportunity for those prepared to take risk. Lori Rei, a hand analyst of Liskeard, Cornwall, says the Rat is a master at finding rich pickings". Those should be sweet words for some British businessmen. Sir Christopher Hogg.

the man who demerged Courtaulds Textiles from Courtaulds, and whose reputation for making businesses work harder. becomes chairman of Allied Domeog next month. The outgoing chairman has just issued a profits

Gerry Robinson, with Forte tucked under his cheese trap, should be aware Rat years are "an excellent 12-month period for new beginnings and fresh

John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the Stock Exchange, should be pleased to know Lori predicts a year when markets and economies are buoyant, and things are generally on the up. And Sir John Harvey-Jones can preach his gospel to new businesses that it's a year to begin projects, launch new products and forge new links".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Hollick deal heralds era of new media conglomerates

Eric Reguly and Ross Tieman look at the start

of a trend

The merger of United News & Media, a vintage, slow-moving newspaper company and MAI, an aggressive tele-vision and financial services group, is expected to be the first of many such deals in Britain. This particular trans-action was triggered by the Broadcasting Bill, now mak-ing its way through Parlia-ment, which will remove

many of the the toughest

restrictions on cross-media ownership. The age of the media conglomerate is here. If anything Britain is a latecomer to the trend. In America, sweeping changes in communications legislation have unleashed a cross-ownership free-for-all that has only just begun. The ultimate goal is to obtain access to residential and business consumers. be it through TV and radio signals, phone lines, the Internet, on-line services or newspapers and magazines.

Any group that controls only

one or two of these methods of

access is reckoned to have a

limited future; the winners

will be the players that control

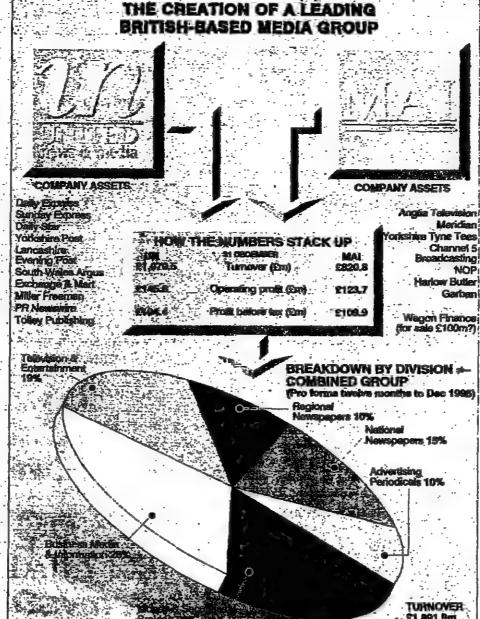
many or all of them. Lord Hollick, the managing director of MAI, who is to be chief executive of the as-yetunnamed merged group, cites The News Corporation, the parent company of The Times, as a plomeer. News Corp which owns dozens of newspapers around the world. America's Fox TV network and a 40 per cent stake in satellite TVcompany BSkyB — last year oined forces with MCI, America's second-largest long-dis-tance phone company. MCI, which in turn is owned 20 per cent by British Telecom, hought a 13.5 per cent stake in News Corp for \$2.4 billion. The partners, among other

things, plan to launch a satel-lite TV service in the US. The recent passage in the US of the Telecommunications Bill will accelerate this pro-The Bill allows local, long-distance and cable companies to attack each other's markets and will probably trigger a flurry of takeovers and parinerships. Nynex and Bell Atlantic, two US regionalphone companies, are negotiating a joint venture in the long-distance telephone market. They, in turn, are expected to seek partnerships with multimedia companies so that

British media companies, in the expectation of more liberal cross-media ownership rules, have been thinking along the same lines. The Mirror Group launched Live TV. a cable channel, and bought a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television. David Montgomery,

they can provide services such

as video-on-demand.



Mirror chief executive, sees television as the group's future. He has been lobbying the Government for an exemption that would allow the group to increase its TV interests. At the moment, it has little room to manoeuvre because it controls more than 20 per cent of the national newspaper market, a level that brings it to the ceiling on crossmedia ownership under exist-

Pearson, the owner of the Financial Times and Penguin books, has also been driving hard in the TV-sector. It has just added SelecTV, producer Feather, to its burgeoning broadcasting portfolio, which includes Thames TV and Australia's Grundy Worldwide. The Telegraph group, publisher of The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph, is

electronic media investment. However, many newspaper groups are diversifying. About half of the largest newspaper companies in North America and Europe have broadcasting arms, and those are companies that investment that

of Lovejoy and Birds of a merger with United is a bail-

analysts favour.



MAI makes and broadcasts TV programmes such as those based on P. D. James's Adam Dalgleish novels

out of United's ailing newspapers. The circulations of the Daily Express and Sunday Express have been in freefall, although its regional titles have been more robust. Aside from pumping a fortune into the one of the few large newspaper companies without a sizeable editorial departments of the papers, there seemed to be no

way of stopping their decline. Efforts to stem the slide, by hiring new editors and launching an open chequebook search for new journalistic talent, are already under way. But the rumour, denied by Lord Stevens. United's chairman, was that the national

titles were on the auction block. Andrew Neil, former editor of The Sunday Times, was part of one group trying to buy the papers, and Sir And-rew Lloyd Webber, the composer, was said to be a member of another. Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, was also thought to be rested and may end up spoiling the MAI-United merger by bidding for United.

The merger of United and

MAI through a tax-free share swap will create what the two companies describe as "a leading British-based media group". Regional and national newspapers will account for only 25 per cent of combined turnover and 18 per cent of combined operating profits, based on financial figures for

When large investors find a voice

The institution's role as shareholder is changing, Marianne Curphey finds

who for so long have behaved like inarticulate, slumbering giants, have suddenly found their voice and are making it hard.

Standard Life's outburst

questioned the wisdom of

Carlton Communication's

proposed bonus increases

the required re-

Money and securities broking will account for 20 per The most publicly transformed of all is Standard cent, and business media and information 26 per cent. Lord Hollick said that the group's Life, one of the largest inves-tors, which yesterday an-nounced its objections to heavy exposure to business media and information makes Farneli Electronics's proposed acquisition of the US comparisons with Reuters, the electronic information and news group, perfectly valid. So what are the benefits of industrial company, The price, it said, was too

putting two companies togethhigh; it would dilute earnings to Farnell's shareholder? On the practical front, cost savings are an obvious advan-tage. MAI will close its head office and move into the black ers and would saddle Farnell with more than £430 million net debt. and grey Express building on the banks of the River Thames. came just days after it had Some departments will combine and some redundancies are inevitable. Lord Hollick said cost savings equivalent to about 10 per cent of the comfor its most senior directors. bined operating profits of £265

Advertising periodicals will account for 10 per cent of turnover, and television and entertainment 19 per cent. MAI owns Anglia Television

and Meridian Broadcasting.

the ITV licensees, and makes

programmes such as those

based on P. D. James's Adam

Dalgleish novels.

million are possible. The merger, in theory, will release financial resources to prop up the ailing Express titles. It will also insulate the companies from hostile raiders. Both United and MAI were considered highly vulnerable to

takeover attempts.
But Lord Hollick sees the notential for cross-fertilisation. cross-promotion and the development of new businesses as the greatest advantage. With TV. newspapers and advertising periodicals. United and MAI will have access to huge swathes of the population, while businesses such as PR Newswire, NOP, the pollster, and the exhibitions division will give it good coverage of the business market.

ord Hollick said: "In our view, we have three or four businesses that are pre-eminent in their markets. What they need is additional resources, and this deal gives them that." Not everyone is convinced that synergies exist. Dan Colson. chief executive of The Telegraph, said he sees no crossover, for instance, between newspaper publishing and MAI's money and securities broking businesses. "It's very easy to be seduced by the theory that you have to be in all forms of the media in the first place, and money-broking isn't even media." Nonetheless, the trend is

likely to continue. There are few practical and legal reasons newspapers and electronic media should be separate businesses anymore. Not all the mergers will succeed. United and MAI, however, have to be given credit for their pioneering spirit.

institutional giant, has also expressed "concern" over Carlton's plans, but says large investors rarely speak publicly without first notifying the company of their

Anita Skipper, corporate governance manager at the Norwich, says: "It is a deli-cate balance between talking privately to companies and trying to reduce any misunderstanding between us and our policyholders. It is not a matter of washing dirty linen in public. During the row over the pay and perks for British Gas executives, individual shareholders felt we were not on their side. This shows them that

So after years of secret meetings with directors and changing?

Guy Jubb, the insurer's John Holland, Professo corporate governance director, said companies should reward management for outstanding achievement, not mediocrity", with the implication that Carlton's executives had not delivered

Yesterday he defend-6 It is not a ed his commatter of ments by saying Standard Life felt it was washing dirty "right to take a linen lead" on the issue and a comin public 9 pany's perior-

mance ought to be "continually Until recently, institutional investors in the UK, unlike those in America, had seemed rather passive, either trying to put pressure on companies behind the scenes, or ultimately selling shares if they were unhappy with performance. As institutional investors

becomes more difficult.
In addition, the rise of indexed funds means trustees often can no longer use the option of selling shares, as they have to keep the appropriate weighting for the size of the company.

lion in 1975; today they amount to more than £500 billion. One fund manager said yesterday: "With a 3 per cent stake in a company it is impossible to sell quickly without driving the share bigger, their influence over and responsibility to the stock market becomes

Norwich Union, another

being accused of inertia and short termism, is the culture

of International Banking and Finance at Glasgow University, believes it is. His recent research has found companies make extensive use of behind-the-scenes

assessed".

have increased in size, this

UK pension funds controlled assets worth £30 bilprice down. As investors get

talks to influ-

ence a company before it makes decisions on issues such as remuneration, perks, length of contracts, sucseparation of

chairman and chief executive, but he is convinced changes are overdue. One of the US's largest

and most confrontational pension funds, the California Public Employees Retirement System, is already diversifying into the UK.
"Vociferous institutional

investors are well established in the US and it was almost inevitable that our cousins across the Atlantic should influence us," he says. "Larger shareholders tend to speak out when negotiations behind the scenes have broken down. They have discovered a very powerful tool: by speaking out about one company, they are signalling to others in which they hold a stake that they too should step into

The biggest UK investor. the Prudential. still prefers discreet negotiations. though it does have a secret list of companies about which it is concerned. Fidelity and Legal & General, likewise, have so far stayed

CALL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T

Accountants can fight back and work to restore image

From Mr David W. K. Chitty Sir, I wholeheartedly agreed with Robert Brace's report on the consequences of Mr John Cook's victory over the leader-ship of the English ICA Danuary 25). The English ICA has become increasingly bur-dened by a bloated central

bureaucracy which is remotefrom the membership and which fails to address the issues confronting either the profession or British business. Few members actively participate in institute affairs and the institute has become publicly ridiculed by its expensive and pointless poster campaign tell-

chartered accountant". Mr Cook's actions demon-: strate that the membership can light back. The next challenge is for members to change the constitution to require the president to be elected by a vote of all the members rather than by council members behind closed doors. The proposed merger with CIMA should be rejected as it offers nothing to the members of either institute

ing the general public that onstrated under the leader-they will sleep better with a ship of Martin Mears that a great professional body can be run democratically for the interest of its members. This should be an example to the members of the English ICA who now have a chance themselves to assert their voices, achieve democracy, and collectively work together to restore the tarnished image of their Yours faithfully DAVID W K CHITTY

(Technical Manager), Chantrey Vellacott, 10-12 Russell Square, WCl.

to encourage new business,

the newcomer must not carry

the interest burden created by

others, I believe the solution to this problem already exists.

Banks, VAT offices and tax

collectors charge accumulat-

ing interest on debts. Com-

panies should, by law, be able

percentage of this levy to the

Exchequer as payment for the

Companies would not be

allowed to dictate terms that

might leave low-level creditors

exposed or disqualify business

opportunity on the basis of

enforcement of this rule.

payment terms.

Yours faithfully

Haven Studio,

Eel Pie Island.

Twickenham,

Middlesex

TREVOR BAYLIS,

Charge accumulating interest to tackle the problem of bill payments

The Law Society has dem-

except for an even larger

From Trevor Graham Baylis Sir, I was interested in Michael Heseltine's comments on business years ago and cer-Breakfast with Frost concern-tainly would never been able ing staying in business. He was proud to say "at least all my creditors were paid".

I am a tradesman and sole proprietor of a company and 18 months to pay their bills.

have traded for 27 years. In all Others fold, leaving debts that time without the support never paid. If the nation wants

Extra zeros at KPMG taken into account

From Mr James Porter. Sir, Much is being written about the size of partners. Renumeration should al-salaries in the recently pub. ways reflect on responsibility. lished accounts of KPMG, and in the case of KPMG, the

The partners of an account. JAMES PORTER: tancy firm are wholly liable. 31 Criffel Avenue, for damages they may incur. Clapham SW2.

from my bankers - Barclays - I would have gone out of to afford to develop my invention of the Baygen Freeplay Radio. · · · · · Some companies take up to to enforce their practice. The tradesman would add on a

18 months to pay their bills.

during litigation, even after retirement from the firm.

Surely the figures are reason- extra zeros are well carned able as reward for the risks. Yours faithfully.

changes ignored From Mr John E. Moore Sir, I find the current discus-

Vital workforce

sions of earnings growth to be hollow (Philip Bassett, January 30). The views concentrate on the pay settlements and earnings growth of those who remain in their posts. Does Adair Turner really believe that everyone is on a CBI-monitored rising wage curve? The commentators, gov-

ernment and private, seem to overlook completely the enormous change in the structure of the earning workforce in recent years, as huge numbers of older workers have been made redundant and, if they are lucky. rejoin the earnings ladder at a lower point. The effect of this in lowering average earnings seems to be ignored by the statisticians.

No wonder productivity per head has increased, but productivity per E of earnings has surely increased much more, which is what really matters in international competitiveness. Yours faithfully, JOHN E. MOORE, 24 Wildcroft Drive, North Holmwood,

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 9171-782 5112.

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Strasbourg

Breach in denial of accused's access to lawyer

Murray v United Kingdom (Case No 41/1994/488/570)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, F. Matscher, L-E. Pettitt. B. Walsh, N. Valticus, S. K. Martens, E. Palm, I. Foighel, R. Pekkanen, N. A. Loizou, F. Bigi, Sir John Freeland, M. A. Lopes Rocha, L. Wildhaber, Makarczyk, D. Gotchev, K. Jungwiert and U. Lohmus

Registrar H Petzold

Budgment February 8 The European Court of Human

Rights held, by 12 votes to 7, that there had been a violation of paragraph I. taken in conjunction with paragraph 3(c), of article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights as regarded a defendant's lack of access to a lawver

The Court also held, by 14 votes to 5, that there had been no breach of article 6, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Convention arising out of the drawing of adverse inferences on coount of the defendant's silence.

Although not specifically men tioned in article b, there was no doubt that the right to remain silent under police questioning and the privilege against self-inognised international standards hich lay at the heart of the notion of a fair procedure under article b.

Whether the drawing of adverse inferences from an accused's simatter to be determined in the light of all the circumstances of the case, having particular regard to might be drawn, the weight at-tached to them by the national evidence and the degree of compulsion inherent in the situation. Article 6 of the Convention

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him. everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by nounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national socurity in a democratic society. where the interests of luveriles or the protection of the private life of extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special

"2 Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

criminal offence has the following ninimum rights: ... (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or. if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given free when the interests of justice so require"

John Murray was arrested on January 7, 1990 in a house in which Provisional Irish Republican Army informer (Mr L) had been held captive.

He was taken to the police station, where a detective superintendent, pursuant to the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1987, decided to delay the applicant's access to a solicitor for 48 hours, considering that such operations against terrorism

The applicant was cautioned by Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order (SI 1968 No 1987 (N1 201) that adverse inference might be drawn if he failed to answer questions at the pre-trial stage.

On January 8 and 9, 1990 the times. Before each interview he was either cautioned or reminded that he was under caution. The out those interviews. He saw a solicitor for the first time before the final two interviews but the solici-tor was not allowed to attend.

On May 8, 1991 the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, sitting without a jury, sentenced the applicant to eight years imprison-ment for aiding and abetting the false imprisonment of Mr L

The judge, exercising his discretion under the 1988 Order, drew adverse inferences from the fact that the applicant falled to offer an explanation for his presence at the house and had remained silent during the trial. The applicant's appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland in

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Hu-man Rights on August 16, 1991; it was declared admissible on January 18, 1994.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on June 27, 1994 in which it established the facts of the case and expressed the opinion that there had been no violation of article 6 paragraphs 1 and 2 (15 violation of article 6 paragraph (in conjunction with paragraph 3(c) (13 votes to 4) and that It was not necessary to examine whether there had been a violation of article 14 in conjunction with article o ()4 Court by the Commission on September 9, 1994 and by the dom on October II, 1994.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as

I Alleged violation of article 6 A Article o paragraphs I and 2: right to silence

The Court, confining its aren tion to the facts of the case, considered whether the drawing of inferences against the applicant under articles 4 and 6 of the 1988 Order rendered the criminal proceedings against him, and especially his conviction, unfair within the meaning of article 5 of the Convention.

It was recalled in that context ference was drawn under article 3 of the order. It was not the Court's role to examine whether, in general, the drawing of inferences under the scheme contained in the order was compatible with the article to tsee, inter alia, Brogan and Others v United Kingdom (The Times November 30, 1988; 1968 Series A No 145-8, p29, peragraph 5%.

Although not specifically mentioned in article 6 of the Convention, there could be no doubt that the right to remain silent under police questioning and the privi-lege against self-incrimination were generally recognised inter-national standards which lay at the heart of the notion of a fair procedure under article 5.

By providing the accused with protection against improper compulsion by the authorities those immunities contributed to avoiding miscarriages of justice and to securing the aims of article

The Court did not consider that it was called upon to give an abstract analysis of the scope of those immunities and, in particu lar, of what constituted in that content "improper compulsion". What was at stake in the case was whether those immunities were absolute in the sense that the exercise by an accused of the right to silence could not under any circumstances be used against him at trial or, alternatively, whether informing him in advance that. under certain conditions, his silence might be so used, was always to be regarded as "improper

On the one hand, it was selfevident that it was incompatible with the impunities under consideration to base a conviction solely or mainly on the accused's silence or on a refusal to answer questions or to give evidence himself.

On the other hand, the Court

deemed it equally obvious that those immunities could not and should not prevent that the accused's silence, in situations which clearly called for an explanation from him, be taken into account in assessing the persuasiveness of the evidence adduced by the prosecution.

Wherever the line between these two extremes was to be drawn, it followed from this understanding of "the right to silence" that the question whether the right was absolute had to be answered in the

It could not be said therefore that accused's decision to rem silent throughout criminal have no implications when the trial court sought to evaluate the evidence against him. In particular, as the UK Government pointed out, established inter-national standards in that area. while providing for the right to silence and the privilege against self-incrimination, were silent on

Whether the drawing of adverse inferences from an accused's silence infringed article 5 was a matter to be determined in the light of all the circumstances of the case, having particular regard to the situations where inferences might be drawn, the weight at-tached to them by the national courts in their assessment of he evidence and the degree of compulsion inherent in the situation.

As to the degree of compulsion involved in the present case, it was fact able to remain silent. Notwithstanding the repeated warnings as to the possibility that inferences might be drawn from his silence, be did not make any statements to the police and did not ive evidence during his trial.

Moreover, under article 4(5) of the 1988 Order he remained a noncompellable witness. Thus his insistence in maintaining silence throughout the proceedings did not amount to a criminal offence or contempt of court. Furthermore, as had been stressed in national court decisions, silence, in itself, could not be regarded as an indication of

Admittedly a system which warned the accused, who was possibly without legal assistance, as in the applicant's case, that adverse inferences might be drawn from a refusal to provide an explanation to the police for his ence at the scene of a crime or to testify during his trial, when taken in conjunction with the weight of the case against him, involved a certain level of indirect

However, since the applicant could not be compelled to speak or

to testily, as indicated above, that factor on its own could not be decisive. The Court rather concentrated its attention on the role played by the inferences in the proceedings against the applicant and especially in his conviction.

In that context, it was recalled that those were proceedings without a jury, the trier of fact being an experienced judge.

Furthermore, the drawing of inferences under the 1988 Order was subject to an important series of saleguards designed to respect the rights of the defence and limit extent to which reliance be placed on inferences.

In the first place, before in-ferences could be drawn under articles 4 and 6 of the 1988 Order appropriate warnings had been given to the legal fects of maintaining silence.

Moreover, as indicated by the adgment of the House of Lords in Murray v DPP (1992) 97 Cr App R 151) the prosecutor had first to establish a prima face case against the accused, that is, a case consisting of direct evidence which, if believed and combined with legitimate inferences based upon it, could lead a property directed jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that each of the essential elements of the offence

The question in each particular adduced by the prosecution was sufficiently strong to require an answer. The national court could not conclude that the accused was guilty merely because he chose to remain silent

It was only if the evidence against the accused called for an explanation which the accused ought to be in a position to give that a failure to give any explana-tion which the accused ought to be in a position to give that a failure to give any explanation "may as a matter of common sense allow the drawing of an inference that there

Conversely, if the case presented by the prosecution had so little evidential value that it called for no answer, a failure to provide one could not justify an inference of

In sum, it was only common sense inferences which the judge considered proper, in the light of the evidence against the accused, that could be drawn under the 1988 In addition, the trial judge had a

discretion whether, on the facts of the particular case, an inference should be drawn. As indicated by the Court of Appeal in the present case, if a judge accepted that an accused did not understand the about it. "we are confident that he would not activate article 6 against

Furthermore, in Northern Ireland, where trial judges sat with-out a jury, the judge had so explain the reasons for the decision to draw inferences and the weight attached to them. The exercise of discretion in that regard was subject to review by the appellate

in the present case, the evidence presented against the applicant by the prosecution was considered by the Court of Appeal to constitute a formidable case against him. It was recalled that when the

police entered the house some appreciable time after they knocked on the door, they found the applicant coming down the flight of stairs in the house where

Evidence had been given by Mr evidence which in the opinion of the trial judge had been corroborated, that he had been forced to make a taped confession and that after the arrival of the police at the house and the removal of his blindfold he saw the applicant at the true of the seatrs.

He had been told by him to go ownstairs and watch television. The applicant was pulling a tape out of a cassette. The tangled tape and cassette recorder were later nd on the premises. Evidence by the applicant's co-accused that he had recently arrived at the house was discounted as not being

The trial judge drew strong inferences against the applicant under article 6 of the 1988 Order by reason of his failure to give an account of his presence in the house when arrested and interrogated by the police. He also drew strong inferences

under article 4 of the Order by reason of the applicant's refusal to give evidence in his own defence when asked by the court to do so. in the Court's view, having regard to the weight of the evidence against the applicant, the drawing of inferences from his refusal, at arrest, during police questioning and at trial, to provide

an emianation for his presence in

the house was a matter of common sense and could not be regarded as uniair or unreasonable in the As pointed out by the Delegate of the Commission, the courts in a considerable number of countries where evidence was freely assessed might have regard to all relevant circumstances, including the manner in which the accused had

behaved or had conducted his

It considered that, what distinguished the drawing of inferences under the Order was that, in addition to the existence of the specific saleguards mentioned above, it constituted, as described by the Commission, "a formalised system which aims at allowing commonsense implications to play an open role in the assessment of

Nor could it be said, against that background, that the drawing of reasonable inferences from the applicant's behaviour had the effect of shifting the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defence so as to infringe the principle of the aumption of innocence

It could not be said, against that background, that the drawing of reasonable inferences from the fect of shifting the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defence so as to infringe the principle of the

Accordingly, the Court held, Judges Petit, Valticos, Walsh, Makarczyk and Lohmus dissenting, there had been no violation of article 6, paragraphs I and 2 of the

B Access to lewyer The court observed that article 6. especially paragraph 3, could be relevant before a case was sent for trial if and so far as the farmess of trial was likely to be actiously prejudiced by an initial failure to

National laws could attach consequences to the attitude of an cused at the initial stages of police interrogation which were decisive for the prospects of the defence in any subsquent criminal

in such circumstances article 6 would normally require that the accused be allowed to benefit from the assistance of a lawyer already at the initial stages of police interrogation. However, that right, which was not explicitly set out in the Convention, might be subject to restrictions for good cause.

The ouestion, in each case, was whether the restriction, in the light had deprived the accused of a fair

The Court was of the view that the scheme contained in the 1988 Order was such that it was of paramount importance for the rights of the defence that an the initial stages of police it observed that, under the

Order, at the beginning of police interrogation, the accused was confronted with a fundamental dilemma relating to his defence; If he chose to remain silent, adverse inferences might be drawn

against him in accordance with the provisions of the Order."

On the other hand, if he opted to break his silence during the course of interrogaton, he ran the risk of prejudicing his detence without necessarily removing the pessibil-ity of inferences being drawn against him.

Under such conditions, the concept of fairness enshrined in article 6 required that the accused had the benefit of the assistance of a lawyer already at the initial stages of police interrogation. To deny access to a lawyer for the first 48 hours of police questioning, in a situation where the rights of the defence might well be irretrievably prejudiced, was, whatever the justification for such denial, incompatible with the rights of the

accused under article 6. The Court therefore held, Judges Ryssdal, Maischer, Palm, Foighel Sir John Freeland, Wildhaber and Jungwiert dissenting, that there was a breach of article 6, paraconjunction with paragraph 3(c), as regarded the applicant's denial of access ot a lawyer during the first 48 hours of his police

article i4 in conjunction with articie 6

The applicant further con plained that the practice in North-ern ireland regarding access of solicitors to terrorist suspects was discriminatory, contrary to article conjunction with article 6, having regard to the fact that solicitors vere not permitted to be present at any stage during the interviewing of suspects by the police unlike their counterparts in England and

However, in the light of its conclusion that the denial of access to a solicitor in the present case gave rise to a breach of article 6.1 in conjunction with 6.3(c) of the Convention, the Court held, unanimously, that it did not have to ramine that issue.

LII Application of article 50 · As to compensation the Court recalled that its finding of a violation of article 6 was limited to the applicant's complaint concerning access to a solicitor. In its was, in itself, sufficent just satisfaction for the purposes of article 50 of

As regards costs and expenses the applicant claimed E57,263.51. Bearing in mind that the finding of a violation only related to the applicant's complaint concerning access to a lawyer, the Court awarded E15,000, less the sums granted by the Council of Europe by way of legal aid and payable

Law Report February 9 1996 House of Lords

Retrieval of information from computer is not use of data under Act

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley. Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Hoffmann Speeches February 8

Where a person, for an improper purpose, retrieved information om a computer database in the form of a screen display, but thereafter made no use of the information, he did not "use" the data within the meaning of section 5(2)(b) of the Data Protection Act

The House of Lords (Lord Griffiths and Lord Jauncey dissenting) dismissed an appeal by the Crow from the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division. (Lord Justice Staughton, Mr Justice Hidden and Mr Justice Laws) (The Times June 4. 1993: [1994] QB 547), who had allowed an appeal by Gregory Michael Brown against his convic-tions at Mandstone Crown Court Uudge Waley, QC and a jury) on March 10, 1992 of attempted improper use and improper use of \$(2)(b) of the 1984 Act.

Mr Timothy Langdale, QC and Mr Tom Kark for the Crown; Mr Brian Higgs, QC and Mr Robin Johnson for Mr Brown.

LORD GOFF said that Mr Brown had formerly been a police constable in the Kent Constabu lary. The chief constable was a registered data user for the purposes of the 1984 Act and his agents, including Mr Brown, were entitled to make use of the data

stored in the database of the police national computer for the reg-Istered purpose of policing. Mr Brown had been friendly

with a man who ran a debtcollection husiness. On two occasions he had used the computer to check the registration numbers of vehicles owned by debtors of clients of the business. Those checks had been made through other police officers operating the computer on his behalf.

In the first case the search had not revealed any personal data as defined by the Art because the vehicle was owned by a company. in the second case, the search had revealed personal data, but there was no evidence that Mr Brown or anyone else had made any use of the information obtained. Mr Brown had been charged

with offences under the 1984 Act of using personal data held within the memory of the computer, contrary to section 5(2)(b), (3) and (5). The judge had directed the jury that, in the first case, Mr Brown could only be guilty of an attempt. "Data" was defined in section

1(2) of the Act as "information recorded in a form in which it can be processed by equipment operating automatically in response to instructions given for that

In other words, it might broadly be described as information recorded in computer-readable form. Personal data was data consisting of information relating to a living individual who could be

Section 5(2) provided that a registered data user, or his servant or agent: "shall not . . . use" personal data held by him for any purpose other than as described in the register entry.

The only action taken by Mr Brown in relation to the data had been that he had caused another officer to operate the computer and so cause the information constitut-ing the data to be displayed on a screen. He had then read the information so displayed and observed what it consisted of, but had taken no other action in relation to it. The question was whether by so acting he had "used" the data.

Since "use" was not defined in the Act, it had to be given its natural and ordinary meaning. At first sight, his Lordship would not have thought that simply retrieving information recorded in a computer-readable form from the database in which it was stored so that it appeared on a screen or printout and could be read by a human being could properly be described as "using" the information so recorded.

Of course, the computer would be used to retrieve it, but the retrieval would not of itself be "using" it. It would simply be transferring it into a different Confirmation of his Lordship's

approach could be found elsewhere in the Act. The third "data protection principle", set out in Part I of Schedule I, could not be

while it was in computer-readable form. It was concerned with use of

the information as such, The use referred to in paragraph 7 of Part 11 of Schedule 1 would be inconceivable if data could only be used by being retrieved from the database. His Lordship's ap-proach also accorded with the

protect and accurate with the statutory purpose of protecting personal data from improper use. If Mr Brown had originally been charged not with the full offence of using personal data but with an attempt to do so, the jury would have had to consider whether, on the evidence, his actions coupled with his state of mind showed that he was committing no more than preparatory acts, for example if he had just been finding out whether there was information that might be of use to him in assisting his friend, or whether he had embarked on the commission of the offence because he had had a firm intention to put that information to an improper use if it had proved to be useful for that purpose.

There was, however, in the present case, no question of upholding the conviction of an attempt in the first case or of substituting such a conviction in the second case.

Such a conviction was only possible in the present case if the jury, properly directed on the law, had concluded on the evidence that the accused had gone beyond mere acts of preparation and embarked mission of the offence so

as to render him guilty of an

LORD GRIFFITHS, dissenting said that if "use" were not given a broad construction the purpose of the Act would not be achieved. there would be a serious lacuna in the protection it provided and there would be difficulties in its

The Act had been enacted to implement the obligations in the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data ([198]) (Crund 834]). The Act should therefore be construed so far as permissible to accord with the Convention.

Article I of the Convention stated that the purpose of the Convention was to secure the individual's right to privacy. To read the personal data about an individual displayed on a computer screen or in a printout was an invasion of

that person's privacy if there was itimate purpose for doing so. It was not straining the meaning of language to say that a person was using the information stored in a computer if he informed himself of its contents.

Once information had entered the public domain it was impractical to attempt to place any restraints on its use or further Mr Brown had had no business to be reading the personal data on the police computer for debt-

collecting purposes, and his Lord-ship saw no hardship in adopting a construction of section 5 that created an offence if he did so. If, on the other hand, an obliga tion were laid on the prosecution to

prove not only that illegitimate access to the information in the computer had been obtained but also how that information had subsequently been applied, his Lordship could see great practical difficulties in the enforcement of

Relevance of time

Before Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr. Justice Sachs and Mr Justice Moore-Bick

Judgment January 26 Time spent in custody could be taken into account by the sentenc-ing court not only when deciding the length of a custodial sentence but also when deciding the level of

The Court of Appeal so held in substituting a fine of £1,000 for one of £2,000 imposed by Judge Sheerin on June 2, 1995 at Cambridge Crown Court in sent Barry John Warden on his plea of guilty to a charge of permitting the supply of cannabis on his

Mr Martin Evans for the defendant: the prosecution did not appear and was not represented. MR JUSTICE MOORE-BICK.

Regina v Warden (Barry said that the court had to consider two points: First, whether the fine was out of

> plea was advanced on the basis of social supply and in those circum stances the line was excessive. Second, was the 14 days of remand in custody relevant? Section 18(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 required the court to take into account the circumstances of the case. Since the court was enjoined to consider circumstance:

in general, the H days spent on

remand was a relevant

all proportion to the offence. The

When a person had spent a period prior to sentence remanded in custody some credit should normally be given. How much depended on the circumstances of the case.

A fine of El,000 reflected the gravity of the offence and the time spent in custody. Solicitors: Dawberns, Wisbech.

Abuse of process

Rentall Ltd and Another v D. S. Willcock Ltd and Others

Where counsel had stated at the end of the trial that he could not oppose the dismissal of third-party proceedings and that his clients would not pursue them (urther, it was an abuse of the process of the court for his clients to seek on appeal a new trial of the thirdparty proceedings.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Land Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Rosel so held on February 6, when ing applications by the first third party. Christopher Michael Harrison, and the second third party. Coopers & Lybrand. to strike our part of the notice of appeal dated March 10, 1995 served by D. S. Willcock Ltd.

Douglas Stewart Wilkock and

realistically apprised the judge that further conduct of the thirdparty proceedings from his point of view was doomed to failure. The judge had ordered accordingly. The defendants had in effect

Sylvia Christine Willoock, the first, second and third defendants respectively, which called for the setting aside of an order made by Mr Graeme Harrison, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court, on January IJ. 1995 dismissing those defendants' proceedings against the first and second third parties... LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said counsel for the defendants had

mitted to judgment and it could not be right that they should be entitled to come back to court and resile from that position.

the Act and the protection of personal data that the Convention

Lord Jauncey agreed with Lord Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed

and the Act had intended to

with Lord Hoffmann. LORD HOFFMANN, concurring in dismissing the appeal, said that retrieving data from a com-puter seemed to him a use of the computer rather than a use of the data. The scheme of the Act as a whole did not permit the phrase "use [personal] data" to be con-strued as including its retrieval.

The Act quite carefully used a

describe various things that could be done to personal data, including

processing". Section 1(7) defined processing to include "extracting the information constituting the data". It was clear that the operation performed by Mr Brown fell within the definition of "processing", but it could not also constitute "using". The Act treated processing dif-

ferently from using.
His Lordship also agreed with the reasoning of Lord Goff. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters; Durlings.

Gillingham, Kent.

THE TIMES

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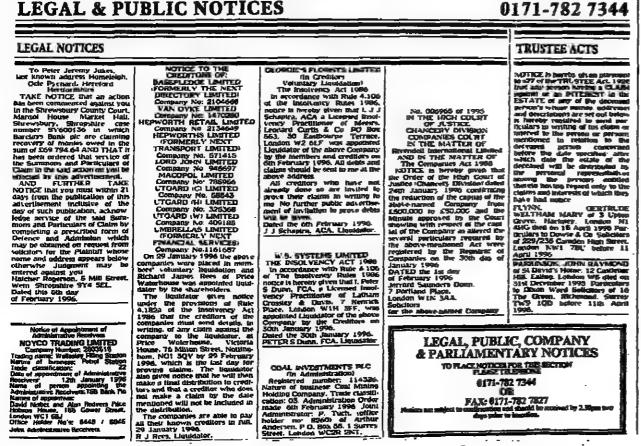
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■ THEATRE

A melancholy study of the game of life? Storey's The Changing Room is revived in London



VISUAL ART

From the Tate's Cézanne show: the magnificent Still Life with Apples is today's choice





MUSIC

Flashes of insight, but also some indulgences, in Roger Norrington's exploration of **Hector Berlioz**



■ TOMORROW

Homage to an eminent Victorian: the centenary of Lord Leighton is celebrated with a fine exhibition

THEATRE: Rugby league drama in a David Storey classic; and an even-tempered portrait of comic Tommy Cooper

Life's a pitch, and then you die

here is something odd, ironic and, for those of us who admire the man, highly satisfying in finding David Storey's rugby-football drama ensconced in the West End as part of a season of Royal Court "classics". Throughout the 1980s the playhouse that had made his name as a dramatist treated him as a non-person, forcing him to give other theatres the work he had written with its proscenium arch in mind and, I suspect, stemming his creative flow as a result. But a new regime is at last making what, next to the production of a new Storey play, is the best kind of reparation. If I had to pick a personal avourite from the work he wrote in the late 1960s and the 1970s, it would be his Contractor. Maybe next year the Court will find the courage to restage a play that requires a tent to be meticulously erected in Act I and conscientiously dismantled in Act II. But the piece

The Changing Room Duke of York's

at the Duke of York's is an excellent example of Storey's ability to evoke lives from snippets and a society from those lives. Less becomes more. He calls the play The Changing Room and leaves you feeling that you are seeing a changing world.

The main event, a rugby league match somewhere in Yorkshire, occurs offstage. Nothing of obvious import happens amid the dingy brown benches, the grey-green plaster, the clothes hooks and (at the back) the dreary white tiles of a locker room that would have any modern rugby-league pro on the fax to his agent with demands for hardship pay.

The players prepare for the same, they stagger in frozen and althy at half-time and then dress and make their farewells, leaving the decrepit cleaner we met at the beginning to end the play with another despondent shove of the () rush. Add to this a pep-talk from the coach, a couple of visits to the changing room by the club chairman, a casual frisking of the players by the ref, the substitution of a half-concussed forward, and that's about it. The play might almost be one of those documentaries for television that end with a studio discussion about the future of the sport between men called

> Certainly, James Macdonald directs it with admirable attention to



Knock-on effects: Philip Martin Brown (Sandford), Brendan Coyle (Kendal), and Philip Whitchurch (Walsh) in David Storey's behind-the-scrum dramatisation

detail. And, although one or two of the bodies onstage might have trouble surviving a sprint for a taxi down St Martin's Lane, his 22-man cast create a credibly sweaty,

authentically male atmosphere. Character after character edges into being amid the mildly salacious banter and the smell of resin: Philip Whitchurch as the laughing

boy whose idea of fun is urinating

in the team bath: Brendan Coyle as the player who, even when halfconscious, clings pathetically to the tool-kit with which he plans to build shelves for the unfaithful wife who is ruining his game: Simon Wolfe as the wary mother's boy who examines each word for the possibility of offence; and, most

significantly, David Hargreaves as

the club's top dog and Ewan

Hooper as its bottom one. The chairman is a rich builder who never appears without his accountant, gives the appearance of having to fake an enthusiasm for the game, and moans about the deteriorating quality of everything from bricks to

chickens to men. The cleaner's nostalgia for old days when colliers played rugby after 16 hours underground isn't to

be taken so seriously, for he is a miserable old git who never watches a game. Nevertheless, he too adds to the play's often melancholy feel. As in much of Storey's work, a sense of unease and loss is all

But so, if only briefly, is some-thing rare in Storey. You feel it when the time to face the crowd approaches and even the jokers go

quiet. You certainly feel it when the players return, justifiably proud at a hard task well performed. Divisions have been replaced by unity. There is camaraderie, even joy. For just a few moments a game and a changing room have shown what the world might be.

> BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Little up his sleeve

This is the story of Tommy Cooper. Thankfully, play-wright Garry Lyons' portrait of the fondly remembered fez-topped comic tembodied by longjawed, lumbering Steven Speirs) is a bit different from today's countless biographically scrappy tributes to rock n'rollers.

True, we see Cooper rising to fame, and his final collapse. Scenes alternate between his behaviour offstage and his best-loved acts. And Speirs recreates Cooper's old tricks, combining manieness and mock clumsiness

The surprise is that Lyons's play, first written for Hull Truck, specifically focuses on Cooper's precelebrity days when he was entertaining the troops in the Middle East just before demob. In Peter Rowe's energetic, stylish Evcryman production, we watch Cooper in a memory-scape: an expanse

Frankie and Tommy Everyman, Liverpool

of sand encircled by old props baskets with a curtain stage at the rear, its proscenium arch fashioned from corrugated iron (designer

Ashley Shairp).
Actually this is a story of two men, of the short-lived double act of Tommy Cooper and little Frankie Lyons. The latter went back to working sheetmetal after his battle with Cooper's growing ego. The surnames are no coincidence — the dramatist is Frankie's son.

As a consequence, Cooper is not simply fondly remembered. Combining research and poetic licence. Lyons Jr is really exploring the competitive aspect of double acts, the unfunny side of an obsessively ambitious comic, and the difference between large and small talent.

Speirs is not Cooper reincarnated. He has not got the vocal rasp, and the young Cooper was in fact more skeletal than hefty. Still, he builds up a quite complex character. sometimes hyperactive like an insecure child, sometimes bullishly crushing, maybe just driven, but perhaps a sharp careerist.

This is not a play of dazzling genius or depth. Ben Fox's basically affable, unbrilliant Frankie is not the Salieri of light entertainment. The escalating rows could also be condensed. Nevertheless, the duo's interactions, with Cooper warding off intimacy by playing the joker, are very believably scripted.

KATE BASSETT

A PUBLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O Richard Cork continues his guide to the Tate's Cézanne retrospective



"Even the humblest objects were painted sumptuously": Cezanne's Still Life with Apples, 1893-94, Private collection

n Cézanne's day, still life was regarded as a rather inferior subject. But with typical defiance he insisted on painting even the hum-elest objects in a grand and

sumptuous manner. Still Life with Apples, painted when he was in his mid-fifties, is among the most delectable of these paintings. He liked injecting tension by making the objects tilt in unexpected directions. But that does not wholly

explain why the oval mouth of the green ceramic vase has been

widened so surprisingly. When it suited him, Cezanne played around with perspective. Different components in Still Life with Apples seem to be viewed from different vantages. He wanted us to gaze into the welcoming emptiness of the vase. But the patterned drape and seem to

lower down, so that Cé-

zanne could emphasise its. gratifying roundity. The plate, by contrast, is raised up steeply on the white cloth, helping us to see the ripe, burnished Provençal apples as enticingly as pos-sible. They spill out on to the

be in danger of pushing the sugar bowl off the table. But Cézanne counters this unrest, heaval of the cloth's mountainous forms, with the coolness of the wall behind.

● Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 28, sponsored by Ernst & Young For advance booking, which is advised, tele-phone 0171-420 0000

Cork dis

CONCERTS: Berlioz masterpieces; lively Beethoven; a period quartet

the London Philharmonic continued their exploration of Berlioz at the Festival Hall with a programme of shorter works, some heard only rarely today. Norrington, in his introductory chat, described them all as "small masterpieces", which indeed they are, in their way. We were certainly given an overview of Berlioz's development as a composer, from his earliest orchestral piece, the overture Les Francs-Juges, to the Royal Hunt and Storm scene from Act IV of Les Troyens. This set up many fascinating crossreferences and insights, though perhaps at the expense of the performers collective concentration.
While there were many

> Big on gesture

Philharmonia/ Wolff Festival Hall

CHARLES ROSEN, in his new book The Romantic Generation, proffers the notion that "the choreographic gyrations of the virtuose conductor are important to the audience's comprehension", on the grounds that "an accent accompanied by an outflung arm seems literally to become louder and more intense".

The podium choreography of Hugh Wolff, conducting the Philharmonia on Tuesday, provided a telling demonstration. The crouching and stalking were from the Tilson Thomas school of conducting. But there was also a repertoire of less histrionic gestures that did signal the conductor's intentions.

In Beethoven's Violin Concerto those gestures drew our

Homage paid in bits and pieces

flashes of ge-nius from Norrington,

tails: a crisply dotted cadence

on trumpets here, a pregnant drum roll there. And all contained within a taut rhyth-

mic framework providing a strong forward thrust (the

Philharmonia on top form).

All the more curious, there-

fore, that the solo part, which

would normally be expected to

be the more ostentatious,

should prove the more reti-

cent. But this was the reticence

of utter self-confidence and

mastery. Gil Shaham's play-

ing may seem to be innocently

straightforward. But how tell-

ing the slightest nuance be-

of textural details, however, is

considerably less of a virtue in

Sibelius. Wolff's neon sign-

posting in the Fifth Symphony

continually foregrounded ma-

terial better left in shadow.

The contours were big and

dramatic, often arresting, but

lacked the veiled, atmospheric

quality that Sibelius surely

wanted. However, if the spirit

remained unconvincing, the

rhetoric was undeniably

Barry

MILLINGTON

The emphatic underlining

comes in that context.

LPO/Norrington Festival Hall

duleed. This there were was generally the pattern: exhilarating cliother times when he seemed so immersed in the unusual beauty of Berlioz's music that degree of self-absorption. he appeared strangely indif-This was also true of the two ferent to the audience. Parts of the excerpt from Les Troyens suffered from this patchiness: the storm climax, with the antiphonal outburst of "off-

overtures, the Roman Carnival and Les Francs-Juges. This last teems with ideas, not only in the thematic material but also in the composer's use of stage" brass and timpani, was thrilling, but the extended passage for horns, while beauthe orchestral palette. Berlioz clearly could not resist experimenting with every section of

Teasing

Quatuor Mosaïques Wigmore Hall

IT MAY not trip off the tongue, but the name of the Ouatuor Mosaïques has been on the lips of many a connoisseur in recent years, Barry Millington writes. Its recordings of Haydn and Mozart have won praise and awards. and the Wigmore was full on

Quatuor Mosaïques consists of three Austrians and a Frenchman, playing period instruments. Christophe Coin. the Frenchman, is a distinguished cellist. Erich Höbarth, Andrea Bischof and Anita Mitterer, the Austrians, have been associated with Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Concentus Musicus Wien. The group's individual approach reminds one of those iconoclastic musicians

The sound of their period instruments, whether in

the orchestra, giving solos to ophicleides and trombones, emphatic pizzicatos in the double basses and so on. No ophicleides in the London Philharmonic, of course, and the fat sound of modern tubas and trombones lent a ponder-

The least familiar item on the programme was the Fantasy on Shakespeare's The Tempest, with the role of Spirits of the Air taken by the London Philharmonic Choir and a magical scoring that brilliantly created an atmo-sphere of enchantment. Much better known today is the song-cycle Les Nuits d'été. which was immaculately sung by Ann Murray.

TESS KNIGHTON

Haydn (Quartet in B Minor, Op 33 No I), Beethoven (in F, Op 135) or Mendelssohn (A Minor, Op 13), inevitably sets them apart from conventional ensembles. The timbre is wholly integral to their musicmaking. An almost perverse delight is taken in presenting ordinary phrases in an unusual way. With the Andante of the Haydn sounding quaintly remote and the Presto all short bowstrokes and jokey chatter, it would be difficult to imagine a greater contrast between movements.

Beethoven's enigmatic last quartet is fertile ground for spirits such as these. If the tentative opening was shrouded in mystery, the throwaway ending was no less teasing. The Scherzo demonstrated a less positive characteristic: technical insecurity, with vulnerable intonation and notes hit less than squarely.

In the Mendelssohn, the Adagio non lento was rather a robust creation, the light touch of the Scherzo was not ideally realised, and a long pause destroyed the contrast with the explosive opening of the finale. But the ensemble contrived a breathtakingly tranquil end-



CHOICE 1

Opera singer Sally Burgess spreads into the jazz field VENUE: Sunday at the PizzaExpress



CHOICE 2

Wagner comes to **English National** Opera, with a new staging of Tristan VENUE: Opens tomorrow

at the London Coliseum

premiere of Judith Bingham's orchastnal lantasy Beyond Redempuon but if it is a family concert you want then the Halfé Orchastra cotiges on Sunday atternoon, Ken Campbell lans

can take a peek at Vielin Three, his can take a peek at vious 1990. Its lasts journey into the blozare world of the everyday, with Teo-We Vuong Proe Trade Hall, Peter Sneil (§) (0161-834 1712) Tonight, 7.30pm Sun, 3pm Contact, Oxford Road (§) (274 4400).

BRISTOL One of Britain's champions

Batts I OL. Une of britain's champions of contemporary major, the Brunet Ensemble, premieres Will Tod s Violin Concerto fortomow. The ensemble stways mix in classics from eather in the century, so the programme also includes works by Bernstein, Payne and Contemporary.

St George's, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359) Set, 7.30pm 👸

Barblean: Daghfley Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141)
British Mausens: Olivo and Nytho partings (0171-636 1559)
Matthlesen Gellery Leighton and ha Sculptural Legacy (1875-1930 (0171-330 4215) Netional Gallery the NG in World War II (0171-747 2889)
Matthread Reprint Gallery: Bythard Matthlesen Gellery (1975-1930 (1971-330 1971))

LONDON GALLERIES

Sun. 7 30pm.

THE



CHOICE 3

John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men goes on stage in Edinburgh VENUE: Opens tonight at the Royal Lyceum



■ DANCE

Strong stuff from the Royal Ballet: MacMillan revived, and a 🕥 new work on the subject of Aids

WEEKEND JAZZ: Tonighi at the South Bank, Tom Bancroff's fiek-spirited 14-pece octreating adtress under its chansmatic leader, venituming out of his Edinburgh lain to perform a selection of actection material including a new commission from Birmingham Jazz. (Repeated Sat in Birmingham Jazz. (Repeated Sat in Birmingham.) Over in Soho on Sunday, the opera singer Sally Burgess shows off her vestable voice in caharet jazz. Powealt Hasini. South Benfi. SE1 (0711-960 4242) Tonight 7 30pm Sat Birmingham Adman Bouth Hall (§) (0121-605 6666). Jazz et PizzaEuprass. Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 6722) Sun, from 7 45pm WEEKEND JAZZ: Toroghi at the South

TRIBETAN AND ISOLDE Main Edic returns to English National Opera to conduct a new production of Wagner Director David Adien Lakes the helm for the ultimate orde to obsessment Director Level autent pares the Insuring the ultimate ode to obsessional passion, with designs by lan (An Inspector Calls) Machell, the American tenor George Gray makes his house debut as Tristan, and Bizabeth Connell langs isolde. Sheer biass for Wagnerities. Collisioners, St Martin's Lane WCZ (0171-532 8000). Tomorrow, 4pm. § INTERNATIONAL SONGMAKERS The Wigmore series continues still Gomet, Stella Douleus: Christopher Mallman and panist Graham Johnson celebrate Alban Berg tonight and Catherine Wyn-Rogers and Malcolm Martineau take over tornomow

THEATRE GUIDE Sharon Gless play two unaffached New Yorkers whirling lowerds each other in of theatre showing in Landon ■ House full, returns only Soons seeks evaluate

Seets at all prices

Neil Simon's comedy Gleigud, Shattesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Now previewing, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 8pm, Opens Sub 10, 7sm COMMUNICATING DOORS Angels Thome in Ayckocum's ingenious brie-travel play, flesing from a vengelul enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her lorward and back a couple of Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 6888) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, mass Wed and Sat,

THE HELDS OF AMEROSIA love and the electric chair Also as unpleasant as you would expect Alderych, Strand, WC2 (0171-415 6048) Mon-Sat, 7,45pm, mals Wed and Sat, 3pm

III THE GLASS MENAGENIE SUM Mendes's rediant production. Zoé Warramaker and Claire Senner play mother, daughter, Bert Walden is Torn. Comedy, Penton Street, SW1 (0171-359 1731) Mon-Sal, 7 30pm: Sal, 3pm E AN IDEAL HUSBAND, Trumphant is an idea, Hussiano, Tumphan return for Peter Half's production of Wilde's drams of political sleeze and scardel. The user cash incudes Marin Shay, Anta Collett's Penne Downe. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1

<u>NEW RELEASES</u>

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) Tonight, 7.30; Sal,

ELSEWHERE EDINBURGH: Opening right for Steribeck's own stage adaptation of his of lifes and Man. Tom McGrown and Bob Berrett star as the why terminend and the simple giant, validy searching for the American Dream in a Depression-bound land; Kerny Ireland Greez's Royal Lyosum, Ganday Street (0131-29 9897). Mon-Sat, 7-45pm; mats Feb. 17, 21 and 24, 2-30pm; Unhi Mar 2 (5) 1FEDS: Torbu-lones prices the crafts.

LEEOS: Toby Jones plays the crafty clerk and Bob Mason the corrupt governor in Gogol's The Government Inspector With Pheirin McDermott directing, the Expressionist elements are likely to be vived.

West Yorkshire Playhouse. Cuarry Hill (0113-244-2111). Tomorrow-Feb 14. 7 30pm, Opens Feb 15, 7 30pm, until Mar 16 (5)

MANCHESTER, Yen Pascal Torielle mid the BSC Philhammanic Overhea slart the weekend with the world kend with the world

(0171-930 8500), Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. (a)

El An INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Deichy's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pilers of socially Garriels, Chernig Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085), Mon-Fin, 7 45pm; Set, 815pm and Wcd 2 30pm Set Form.

8 15cm, mets Wed, 2 30cm, Set, 5cm.

SI LES EVANS: The rubber-boned correction correct to the final End Lyric, Shaltesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049) Mon-Fn, Spm; Sat, Spm and -

Crymp's contemporary version of Molere, directed by Lindsey Posner, with Nan Scott and Etcabrish McGowin

THE MISANTHRIDRE Martin

THE LONG AND THE SHORT

AND THE TALL: Mint. Arthro land Bird. Kwouk, in revival of Wills Half's

works war ii (0171-747 2895). National Portrait Gallery: Richard and Mena Cosway (0171-306 0055) Serpentine: Jana Sterbak (0171-787 8072). Tater Cezarne (0171-887 8000). V & A. Jan Art from India (0171-938 8900) celebrated jungle-eer drame; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (017)-369 1730), Mon-Set, 8pm, mets Thurs.

■ RICHARD II Fona Shew plays the puppyish king. This daring piece of casting succeeds, as does the whole of beborah Warner's production Mattenat (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 Metional (Cottesloe), South Bank, S (0171-928 2252) Tomoth, 7pm, Sat, 1 30 amd 7pm in rep. 5

SLAUGHTER CITY, Name Welland's play savage, surreal, and est in a staughter-house. Essentially a os about labour conditions, contuaing PROBLEM SERVICE STREET STATE STREET STATE

SWEET PANIC Spikin Reeves plays a troubled mother staking a child psychologist (Hernet Walter) in Stephen Polishoff's play about the strains of life of today's London Hampsteed, Swas Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat. 8pm; mat Sat. 4pm (5)

☐ VALLEY SONG: After Fugerd plays the grandfather in his latest play, with Exmeralda Birl as the gril deydroaming of the sets. of life in the city. Royal Court, Scene Square (0171-730 1745). Mon-Set, 7.30; Set, 3 30 Ticket information supposed by Sciolety of London Theatre.

CLOCKERS (18)* Spike Lee's heavy-randed version of Richard Prior's novel soost young drug-dealers in Brooklyn. With Harvis Kertal, Deiroy Lindo and Mekh Prefer. Empire (0171-437-1234) MGM Trocadero (5) (0171-434-0031) Rie (0171-254-6677) Ribby (0171-737-2121) UCI Winkeleys (6) (7171-732-321)

DESPERADO (16)* Overblown tollowup to El Mariachi, with Antonio Banderas vergeine Director, Robert Rodrigusz Claphem Pletture House (0171-488 3323) MGMer: Chelsea (0171-362 5099) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Tottenham Court Read (0171-836 6148) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (2) (0171-732 3332) Warner (3) (0171-437 4343)

◆ JOHNNY LINEMONIC (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Kaanu Resveo's head Futuristic folly from cyberpunk stathor William Gibson Director, Robert Longo on (01426 914686 Swiss Cottage (01426 914096) West End (01426 915574)

A LITTLE PRINCESS (U) Manyabous rendering of the children's classic, with basel Matthews as the boarding schools gai plunged from notice to rags Dector, Alfonso Quartin MGMs: Chelsee (0171-352 5098) NEGRIS: Chrotece (0171-352 5098) Tothenheut Court Mond (0171-456 6148) Trocadero (3 (0171-434 9031) UCI Whiteleys (5 (0171-492 3332) Warner (5 (0171-497 4343) Watersman (0181-568 1176)

GINEMA GUIDE

Tens in London and (where ndicated with the symbol +) or release scrose the country

 LOCH NESS (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessee in a dull, termines advernure. With Joely Richardson Describer John Hentlerson. Orestor, John Herderson MGMar; Fullham Road (§) (0171-370 2636) Haymarlet (0171-339 1827) Trocadero (§) (0171-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (§) (0171-792 3332) Warn (0171-437 4343)

NENDEZ-VOUR IM PARMI (PG) Time lakin of love and chance. Feathers delight from Enc Rohmer, with a youthful cast of unknowns. Minutes (0171-035 4225) Persoli (0171-037 8402)

CURRENT FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART N inty lear Bland comedy section, with Drane keaton and kimberty Williams Dane kaalon and kimberly Williams Dractor, Charles Styre In Charles Styre (19171-935 9772) Chelsea (19171-335 5098) Octoons: Kenshipton (191436 91466) Lebuster Square (191436-915983) Marble Arch (191436-914591) Swiss Cottage (191426-914 098) UCI Whiteleys (1914) (19171-792 3332) HEAT (16): LA delective Af Pacino time to catch Robert De Niro's gracks Excellent epic crime drama from writer director, Michael Mann.
 Bartisleen (3) (0) 71-936 8991).
 Clieptyam Pletium House (0) 71-938 3323) MiGitte: Fullbarn Road (0) 77-970 2336) Trocadero (3) (0) 771-434 00311 Notifier Hill Comparé (3) (0) 771-434 (0) 771-4 (01420 S 14080) Natzy (0171-537 2) 21/1) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys & (0171-792 3332) Warner & (0171-437 4343)

LES MISERABLES (12) Unweldy variation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Latouch, with Jean-Paul Belmondo. Berbican (2) (0171-638 9891) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeon Kensington (01426 914886) Warner (2) (0171-437 4343)

 BABRINA (PG) Businessmen
Hamson Ford halfs for the chauffeur's daugner, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just tides not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.

nector, Sydney Pollack popire (0171-437 1234) McMes eker St (0171-935 9772) Fulhant Rei (0171-470 2535) Frocedero (5 (71-434 0231) Plezze (0171-437 1234) Cl Whiteleys (6) (0171-792 3332) WITHHAIL & (15) Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGarm as

Would-be actors miserable in the Lake Detroit MOME: Fullnum Rand (0.171-07) 2636) Shaffeebury Avenue (0.171-63) 2636) Shaffeebury Avenue (0171-536 6279) Pitzy (0171-737 2121)

The poisonous side of sex

breaking taboos when he choreographed The Invitahion in 1960. A landmark in British ballet, it used the language of classical dance not for the telling of fairy-tales or for the painting of pretty pictures, but for the brazen expression of human desire and damnation. And like the rape victim in The Invitation, British ballet would never be the same

Seeing it revived 36 years later is to appreciate how early in his career MacMillan was, like Antony Tudor

DANCE

The Invitation/ Dances with Death Covent Garden

before him, prepared to confront the darker side of human sexual psychology. But, unlike Tudor, he was turning those forbidden passions into gloriously effusive dance. When they come for this ballet has more padding than an over-stuffed Victorian sofa - Mac-Millan's dance phrases are charged with expressive urgency, hurtling his dancers into flights of ecstasy and anguish.

Sex is in the air in The Invitation; It's even to be found in the naked statues in Nicholas Georgiadis's garden, and all the genteel Edwardian house guests are at it. The Girl (the role that made a star of Lynn Seymour) and Her Coustr are two innocents in their midst folding into one another in youthful infatuation. In stark contrast, the Wife and the Husband are destroying one another with their anger and distilu-sion. The Wife's rather touching seduction of the Cousin is set against the Husband's brutal rape of the Girl, a moment of true expressionistic horror.

The Royal Ballet dances it well, even though the work hasn't been done since 1977. Genesia Rosato, as the Wife, was elegant and sympathetic; Stuart Cassidy's Cousin was sensitively realised. Irek Mukhamedov was powerfully masculine as the husband overtaken by his carnal appetite. And Leanne Benjamin, inheriting the Seymour role.

seat, that is — the Empire was

nacked for Wednesday's first

night, when all seats were £10:

"ordinary" audience is sup-

posed to look like, but it must

be something like this: scarce-

ly a glass of wine, sparkling or

otherwise, to be seen; rather,

foaming pints in clear plastic clutched by people who could

as well be at a football match

or down the pub. There's a law

of supply and demand at work

here, with the spirit of dear.

sainted Lilian Baylis hovering

benignly overhead.

Heaven knows what an

now they range up to £15.



danced as if she were caught up in a rush of adrenalin, the physicality of her performance spilling forth like floodwaters out of a burst dam — elemental and unstoppable.

Sex is also a force of destruction in Dances with Death, Marthew Harr's new piece about Aids. A ballet about such a loaded issue, especially one whose pivotal character is the virus itself, could so easily descend into an embarrassment of mawkish intemperance. But Hart, although only 23, has learnt the lessons of his craft well. Dances with Death is a heartfelt and moving personal statement delivered with touches of the price! brilliance

The choreography, set to Benjamin Britten's dolorous Violin Concerto, is deceptively simple. At first it reads like a literal discourse on the disease at work. Darcey Bussell is the lethal virus; the corps de ballet the cells of the body, their passage from white costume to red a sign of their deadly transformation. But Hart has fractured his modest narrative into layers of arresting imagery. Some are crassly specific - the moment of infection between Jonathan Cope and Belinda Hatley's lovers' - but others hold the eye in unforgettable imprints, best of all the final tableau of Bussell looming high over her army like a mighty general victorious in battle. 1

Cooper, in particular, suffers from a regetting stronger by the minute. diffusion of character as Cope's diseased male lover. But Hart has devised

some remarkable lifts to spotlight the women: tender for Hatley's innocent victim, triumphant for Bussell's attacking angel of death.

In the end Dances with Death is an out-and-out contest between Hatley's brave survivor and Bussell's inexorable master. Hatley is gorgeous, abundant in her ill-fated yearning for the doomed Cope and in her determination to defy his disease in her own body. Bussell relishes the opportunity to undermine the sweetness of her usual image, her legs lashing out their fatal touch like an insect with poison-tipped Choreographically, the aien are less. Itimbs. While all around her mass the well drawn that the avonen Adam impressive forces of the corps de ballet. fimbs. While all around her mass the

DEBRA CRAINE

A luxury you can afford ANYONE in danger of falling for the official line peddled in the tabloids that opera is an entertainment fit only for Yet not even so soppy a romantic as I could claim that "toffs" and fat cats should OPEN hurry off to Hackney tonight or tomorrow. If they can get a

everything about Commedia Productions' staging of Carmen is perfect — no money — but their intentions are the purest. Bill Bradford's permanent set serves. Costumes and production are largely DiY hence little sign of the military, and none too clear a narrative line, a problem highlighted by over-enthusias-

tic cutting of the dialogue. The biggest problem was the use (for reasons of economy) of an ancient, out-ofcopyright translation: it would be a pity if "ordinary" audiences thought opera librettos were as stilted as this.

Carmen Hackney Empire

You could question the nonprofessional chorus's intonation, but not their boldness of attack: they had worked themselves silly learning some very tricky music, and whammed into it. The band, largely one to a part, performed miracles of doubling - the heroic solo horn, apart from playing what Bizet wrote for him very beautifully, nearly ruptured himself filling in for (if memory serves) second bassoon in the prelude. Geoffrey Boyd, the conductor, knew what the score should yield, and did his darmedest to realise it. All the soloists had real

voices and projected the words with total clarity. And there was genuine musical intelligence at work: when, for example, did you last hear a Toreador sing the chorus of his number piano? Or a. Carmen start the Seguedille at A genuine pianissimo? Bravil Guy Harbottle and Suzanne Joyce respectively.

Neil Allen's sweet lyric tenor was perfect for Don José's music in the earlier acts, and through sheer willpower he

found the heft for the third and fourth-act finales. The murder held the Hackney audiences

its imperfections, there was a transparent honesty about the performance that triumphed over circumstances and gave the audience a clear idea of what Carmen is all about Would that the same could be said of the hospitality orientated. plumply feline Albert Hall Boheme, which harboured presumptuous pretensions to people's opera".

the Empire, too, equally unwere concerned, but it was a hundred times better

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POP 1

Chips off a famous old block: 3T are a trio of



■ POP 2

Simple truths, with an Irish accent, come on the latest tracks from the Saw Doctors





POP 3

"The voice of a girl, the body of a Gladiator": who can resist the special charm of Audioweb?



POP 4

Gravity-defying Cleo brings a touch of the old magic to a season at the Café Royal

With hopes high in Hounslow

NEW ALBUMS: The Bluetones take to the sky, Michael Jackson's nephews don't. Both will sell millions, says David Sinclair

THE BLUETONES Expecting To Fly

(Superior Quality Recordings/A&M BLUE 004) DESPITE the unseemly scramble by the latest wave of groups to dissociate themselves from the now rather dog-eared Britiop tag, the bandwagon rolls merrily onwards. And if the Bluetones are not an example of a new British band playing fine pop music, then it is hard to think

Four earnest young men from Hounsiow who have already been declared the great pale hopes of 1996 on the basis of a handful of singles, they offer plenty of passion, though nothing in the way of innovation. Sticking primarily to a retro formula of guitars, drums and voices, their debut album, Expecting To Fly, has a comfortingly familiar sound whichwill do nothing to hinder its potentially massive commercial appeal:

On songs such as Things Change and Time & Again, Adam Devilin's guitar-playing encompasses the chiming grace of Johnny Marr and the choppy aggression of Pete Townshend, while singer Mark Morriss plies his tales of romantic whimsy with a clean-cut voice, making a pleasing virtue out of his drawn-out, southern-English vowel

Disillusionment is a recurring theme - "I'm not the same person I was a year ago/You cut me deeply and the scars still show - but, typically, it is music that turns a wncast mood into something life-

affirming and wholly uplifting. The Bluetones for pop melody, and the care with which the songs are written and arranged, means that they stray, at times, a little too close to the bland. "tunesmithery" of the Beautiful South. But on harder numbers, such as the ambitious Talking To Clarry. and Cut Some Rug simagine the Stone Roses with a proper singer), there is a rare brilliance at work.

Brotherhood (MJJ Music/Epic 481694)

BROTHERS Taj (22). Taryll (20) and TJ Jackson (17) are the three Ts in 3T. Their Dad is Tito Jackson, formerly of the Jackson Five/Jacksons, which means that their uncle is none other than the King of Pop himself. Membership of a showbusiness dy-nasty undoubtedly has its advantages. Not only are the boys - none of whom looks a day over 15 - signed to Michael Jackson's MJJ label, but

he has also contributed a new song, Why, to their album, Brotherhood. However, the intensity of the grooming process, which effectively began at birth, and the burden of expectation which now rests on their slender shoulders is such that any spark of youthful innocence or spontaneity has been rigorously excised from this debut.

The result is a sophisticated but

stodgy collection of mature soul ballads and mellow swingbeat grooves that have been polished to groves that have been polished to dull perfection. Uncle Michael sings with the boys on Why, an insipid, orchestrated ballad that addresses such big questions as "Why does Wednesday come after Tuesday?", and his involvement alone will guarantee that this album will be a substantial hit.

However, their instinctive tendency to play safe means that despite their obvious talent, the Ts sound as if they have been catapulted into an early middle-age.

THE SAW DOCTORS Same Oul' Town (Shamtown Records/

Pinnacie SAWDOC 004) IMMUNE to the winds of change that constantly rake the pop landscape, the Saw Doctors continue to peddle their emerald brand of folk rock with stoic goodwill an their third album, Same Out Town. Songs ranging from the jolly Macnas Parade to the lilting Clare Island are peppered with the usual Irish landmarks, while the romantic refrain of "Why don't we share the darkness might?" is greeted if only in the sleeve notes) with the riposte "Guinness or Murphys?"

Musically it is a rugged, if rather guileless formula — "like Bono in wellingtons", as guitarist and singer Leo Moran memorably said - but there is a simple truth at the heart of songs such as To Win Just Once and the recent hit. World Of Good, that makes them strangely impervious to

As they put it themselves, "Life's too short for wasting/For its and might-have-beens," and Same Oul Town is an album that demands to be sayoured on its own terms, unhindered by the ifs and buts of fashion. timing or taste.

STATUS QUO

Don't Stop. (Polygram TV 531 035) IF EVER there was an argument for forcing the compulsory retirement of

rock bands this is it. To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of a parmership. that was forged, appropriately, at a Butlin's holiday camp, Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt have hit on the idea of putting a selection of other people's songs, some of them perfectly good to begin with, through the Status Quo

Performed with a cavalier disregard for nuance and a deadening lack of conviction, the ominously titled Don't Stop is a farrage of epic proportions. Proud Mary, Get Back, Lucille, Sorrow, Raining in My Heart and of course, Fleetwood Mac's presidential campaign song



Little fluffy clouds: the Bluetones, great white hopes of 1996, head for the heights on their debut album

Don't Stop are just some of the old chestnuts that get a roasting.

Torpedoed by lacklustre vocals

and the Quo's notoriously arthritic rhythm section, even the Move's rabble-rousing I Can Hear the Grass Grow and Robert Palmer's haunting Johnny and Mary wilt like delicate blooms in the sun, while a collabor-

ation with the Beach Boys on a version of their surfing classic Fun Fun Fun is nothing short of tragic. Don't stop? If only they would.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oesis (Creation)
2	(What's the Story) Morning Glory? Jagged Little Pill	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
3	The Bends Different Class Bizarre Fruit/Bizarre Fruit II	
4	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
5	Bizarre Fruit/Bizarre Fruit II	M People (Deconstruction)
6	All Chance	Gast (Polydor)
7	Daliverance	Baby D (Systematic)
8	B.P.M. — the Very Best of	The Best (Go Feet)
9	HIStory	Michael Jackson (Epic)
10	History	
80	gN	

CONCERTS

Perfect dentistry with added bite

THESE days, it is widely held that the owner of the most boyish grin in British pop is Blur's Damon Albarn, Back in the early 1980s, though, that mantle was cast around a young Nick Heyward's shoulders. While many musical contemporaries were experimenting with the frilled collars and extravagant fringes of New Romanticism, the relative wit and drive of his punkpop band Haircut 100 came as a breath of fresh air

Their collective career was short-lived, however, and Heyward's subsequent progress as a solo artist has been hampered by the difficulties of persuading a listening public that a man first cherished for his pleasing dentistry can yet mature into a songwriter of genuine worth.

The penny might be begin-ning to drop though. Tangled, his recent album for Epic, has won warm reviews, going some way to repositioning the 34-year-old artist within the collective consciousness.

Driven by a much more muscular guitar sound than that which characterised his earlier work, its short, sharp songs have led some critics to comment that Heyward should be viewed almost as an older brother to the brash young heroes of Britpop. His acute lyrical eye provides the

strongest support for such a

Nick Heyward Dingwalls, NWI

theory: maturity has further ripened his ability to evoke intensely English scenes through the clever use of a telling word or phrase, so that now social comment occurs where whimsicality previously reigned.

This one-off London appearance, coming towards the end of a 14-date tour, found Heyward deploying his grin far more sparingly than before and instead thrashing out those new songs (She's Another Girl, London, Carry On Loving, the recent modest hit The World) with relative aggression. Visits to his back catalogue were few and far between: 1983's Blue Hat for a Blue Day was scarcely recognisable in its new, swaggering incarnation, though the Haircuts' Fantastic Day from a year earlier still managed to project its original

An obvious determination to carve out a new musical direction is to be applauded, however. If Albarn is still writing with Heyward's current energy in 15 years' time, he really will have something to smile about.

ALAN JACKSON

Vocal acrobat Cleo Laine

AFTER Barbara Cook's tour de force last month, there was a danger that the rest of this winter's programmie at the Cafe Royal would seem a terrible anticlimax. Cleo Laine's opening night laid those fears to rest. Though her singing does not exactly sweep

you away in a storming torrent of emotion, she has lost none of her appetite for those gravity-defying, high-wire du-ets with John Dankworth. On her album Solitude, released last year. Laine was matched with the Ellington Orchestra, now under the direction of Duke's son, Mercer. With Dankworth supplying most of the arrangements, the meeting went extremely

well, particularly in the unearthing of a number of neglected tunes, including Reflections and the playful adaptation of Sonnet to Hank Cing, a theme lifted from the Shakespearean collection Such Sweet Thunder. It would take a miracle to squeeze a big band into the corner of the Green Room, and in any case the strippeddown setting of the Dankworth quartet suits Laine even better. Weaving her vocals

she has ample space to function as the group's third Reaching back to the prehis-

between her husband's saxo-

phones and clarinet and the filigree piano of John Horler.

Café Royal toric era of W.C. Handy,

Dankworth put a contemporary, funky spin on St Louis Blues. The wayfaring lyrics of I Thought About You were complemented by Malcolm Creese's insistent bass lines and Mike Bradley's train-like drum motifs. Given her range. Laine is the perfect choice to perform Creole Love Call, her tribute to Adelaide Hall, embellished in this reading by exceptional if rarely heard lyrics concocted by Lorraine Feather.

The evening sagged only in the extended medley dedicated to Vincent Youmans. There was nothing wrong with the songs themselves, but the fragmented, stop-go treatment served to underline Laine's occasional habit of treating lyrics as mere playthings. Then again her sly sense of mischief allowed her to extract the last ounce of satire from the glorious Peel Me a Grape. written by Dave Frishberg and popularised by Blossom Dearie. Frishberg's deft evocation of ennui among the uptown socialites sounds even more timely in this age of the princess, the gym and the shopping expedition.

CLIVE DAVIS

Back to the great daze of variety

Caitlin Moran arm-wrestles

with the hefty promise of

Audioweb's eclectic sonic attack

Teel that " An arm like a tree-trunk is extended across the table. Under the skin, muscles wriggle about like restless children under a duvet. It's certainly some arm. Most of us make do with a percentage of this arm. Parts of it appear to be in different time-zones.

"And I don't do nothing," Martin, Audioweb's divinely gifted singer, giggles. "I don't pick up nothing heavier than a pint. It's God's joke: he gave me the voice of a girl and the body of a Gladiator."

Unfortunately, Martin cannot extend himself to describing Audioweb's music so succincily. This is not surprising as Audioweb, like Heinz. come in 57 different varieties. Imagine Jah Wobble on bass, the Edge on guitar and this Jekyll and Hyde figure up front, alternating between the blissful purity of McAlmont at his most lovelorn and Shabba Ranks chatting away

nineteen to the dozen. Audioweb are a miracleshock when you see them live for the first time. There's a real feeling that you're witnessing an Event that you can bore your children to death with in years to come. But the furrow Audioweb

plough is a fraught one.
"It is shocking how difficult it is getting press with a black guy in the band," Martin growls. "We were supposed to be getting a feature in one of the music magazines, but they pulled it because they were doing Black Grape the same week, and they said that the readers would get confused if they had two bands with black members in

the same issue. " Martin's record collection reflects what seems like every trend over the past 20 years. "I started off on reggae, went into ska 'cos I liked the way it was stripped down, angular. Then I had me soul phase not too much, y'know? A bit of a dabble." He giggles again. "And then I had me indie. A large part of my house is devoted to the Smiths. Sixties stuff Beatles, Stones, Hollies. Jefferson Airplane. And Paul

Jones. He's a bit of a hero.



Audioweb, with Martin on the right — "the voice of a girl, the body of a Gladiator"

the radio and I don't know ifit's the Stone Roses or the Bluetones." I think that's what Alan Bluetone was striving for.

"All the Britpop stuff is rubbish," Martin bellows. "I know all their references, and they're not doing much with them. The only single in the past year and a half that made me sit up was Reverend Black Grape. Then I bought the album, and that was

"They really wimped out. "But I can't stand much of That album should have been doing, and he said, 'I've just

all sounds the same. I turn on It was just this thing you could tap your feet to. If you were really drunk." Having dismissed most of his peers. Martin turns to those he supports.

Supergrass are brilliant," he says. "We did Jools Holland's New Year's Eve show with them, and they were lovely. I saw Danny walking down the street a couple of weeks ago, holding this pair of trousers. He'd just come out of Top Shop and was going into Marks & Spencer. I asked him what he was

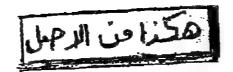
what's happening now - it a rhythmic punch in the face. found these trousers in the street, and I'm taking them back to all the shops to see if I can get a refund. Pretend they were a present'."

Martin lets out a huge guffaw. "I started to get worried - if Supergrass need to go around selling trousers after having a No l album. it's going to take us years before we can afford to get a round in." With which he lifts his pint

muscles a little bit more. • Audioweb's single. Yeah, is released on Monday by Mother

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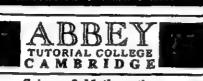
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Will the heads play Labour's tune?

Tony Evans looks at the strategic

options for

independent schools

hether the general election occurs this year or next, it is already clear that each party sees education as a issue in its manifesto. Indeed, it seems likely to play a more important role than in any election for more than 30 years and it is no surprise that parties now propose initiatives, such as "fasttracking", with greater frequency

Independent schools are intense sensitive to this rash of conflicting proposals but it can no longer he assumed that such schools represent, as they did in the past, a safe Tory constituency. The past ten years have been characterised by a series of pragmatic accretions in educational policy, rather than by structural consistency, and those committed to the values of independent schools may well consider all politicians' rhetoric with unprecedented scepticism in the months

In this they will not be alone, for they share many of the concerns of: governors, parents and staff in the maintained sector. Yet independent schools have specific preoccupa-tions against which they will judge the plethora of political intentions. What might these preoccupa-tions be and how might independent schools react? It may seem a truism that independent schools value above all their independence, as do the parents of their pupils. At all costs that principle will be defended in at least five domains. First, there is resentment of increasingly intrusive bureaucracy.

This has been appreciable and few

helped to improve standards. The

neads would affirm that it has

A music lesson at King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham. Schools such as this will fight to retain their independence from political intrusion independent school thrives only if its critical parent body approves of ns ethos and provision. It is therefore vital that heads and governors have the freedom to develop their schools in ways which they believe help pupils to succeed. Intrusive bureaucracy erodes in-dependence, as epitomised by the misguided format of the Department for Education's examination statistics, which distort and under value achievement, or the rigid which give no credence to the local

intelligence of responsible heads.

Secondly, independent schools will look hard at any threat of curricular erosion or dogmatism. Will a future Labour government require independent schools to observe the national curriculum in its every detail and at each key stage? Will testing be imposed? Will it modify, in the wake of the imminent Dearing proposals, or Labour's plans, a national 14-19 provision in ways with which independent schools can be at ease? Over recent years independent

schools have been vindicated in

resisting incheste or precipitous

curricular change they mainly welcomed the principle of a national curriculum but gave warning against the complex folly with which it was implemented some five years ago.

The defence of separate sciences. of classics, of English literature, concern for standards in mathematics and modern languages, opposition to modish cross-curricular themes and reservations about elaborate testing have underlined the salutary vision of independent schools. They will not compromise their academic values and freedom

They would be unwise to barter such freedom against even assisted places, their third area of concern. The assisted places scheme, often accused of elitism, is in the social sense the exact opposite. Should a Labour government abolish the scheme or phase it out, as it is committed to do, most schools offering assisted places will remain comfortably viable. Some may choose to decrease in size but, ironically, social division will be

That will sadden independent schools, all of which seek to widen

increased, not reduced.

opportunity and access. Even at this stage they hope a Labour government would seek to draw strength from independent schools and devise an alternative scheme in partnership which reconciles their independence with a range of admissions across the social spectrum on the basis of need.

The experience, academic and extracurricular diversity and proven quality of so many independent schools could be used imaginativeby a Labour government. This could profitably extend to boarding schools and is already reflected in

places taken by local education authorities whose own schools cannot meet the full range of children's needs.

Fourthly, independent schools will defend resolutely their charitable status. Schools have interpreted their charitable purposes generous-ly through bursaries, support to local communities, to the young, underprivileged and disabled through provision of sporting, mu-sical and theatrical facilities, teacher training courses and, not least. their provision of educated, disci-

wo thirds of independent schools report the use of facilities by community groups and nearly a quarter by maintained schools. Were charitable status removed, fees would rise but the effect, particularbe to narrow the social base of the intake precisely where it should be enlarged. Education is a charitable activity per se. Why should a Labour government not extend charitable status to all schools?

A fifth area of concern lies with the independent inspection scheme. HMC and GSA have devised systems of inspection which are demanding and which seek to ensure that schools of the highest proven quality are further, and continuously, improved.

In this domain the Labour Party is wise to acknowledge the strengths of independent inspec-tions accredited by Ofsted Independent schools would not lightly surrender their stringent and appropriate system.

Independent schools are an integral part of education. They do not wish to be an enclave of privilege but to contribute to national prosperity. They seek co-operation not confrontation with government. In the five areas of concern outlined there is ample scope for respect, progress and positive partnership. ■ The author is Headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School and chairman of the Headmasters and Head-

Susan Elkin finds that good primary schools exist outside Ofsted's roll of honour; Mary Ann Sieghart can't wait for the test results

Cecil Road, a highway to understanding

ecil Road County Pri-mary School is a huge former board school built in 1909 and tucked tightly into narrow, car-lined backstreets in Gravesend, Kent. It is oversubscribed and of its 400 children about 40 per cent, predominantly Sikhs, are

Several things strike the visitor immediately. Plants in tubs bloom on the edges of the steps to the entrance. Posted on the door are several notices stressing partnership and parental involvement. Strains of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony are audible in the distance. Otherwise, it is very quiet. Beautiful examples of chil-

dren's art hang everywhere. You begin to sense something special even before you see a pupil. As pairs of tiny children, all neatly uniformed, come to the secretary on errands or with messages, your first impression is

confirmed. The present school was stormed in 1989 from the merger of three separate schools. The former junior, infant and nursery had only 200 children on roll between them. Andy Sparks, the head, says: "My motto is that you have to get the best out of what you've got. I believe in thinking positively. Take our cricket team. We haven't even got a pitch. We practise in the playground and our boys have just won a championship for the fourth

consecutive year. "And I don't complain about was an accountant before I came into education and I know how to get the best out

Classes are impressively orderly. Every child I met was purposefully getting on with something. Two were having a violin lesson. Another group was being taught music sitting on the floor around the teacher, the pupils concentrating

A class of six-year-olds were all in their places working quietly. Even the nursery class was playing outside in an unusually disciplined and structured way. I believe discipline is vital," Mr Sparks says. Without it there is no learning environment."

Kamal Cox works with bilingual children to develop their English language skills. She also visits parents at home and provides an informal interpretation/translation service. "I have never heard anyone mention racial difference in this school except in a positive, celebratory way," Mrs Cox says.

t is for the management of its rich cultural diversity that the school is most remarkable. There are two ways of approaching racial integration. You can either make a complicated and selfdefeating business of positive discrimination measures, or you can simply be natural and build real lasting equality - as Cecil Road does.



A lesson in tolerance the children of Cecil Road

Doreen Deakin, the grandmother of a pupil, says: "In this school everyone is welcome and everyone is impor-tant. The school is part of the community and the community is part of the school. It has changed local attitudes to ra-cial diversity." Mrs Deakin believes the

school doesn't receive the acrolades it deserves for what it does". Earlier this year the school was nominated for a national Citizenship Award for Celebrating Diversity. Out of 170 schools, Cecil Road was shortlisted to the last three, along with a Yorkshire grammar school and a Manchester high school. As joint runnerup Cecil Road knew that it was effectively the top primary school in the country. Mr Sparks and one of his staff went last summer to

award. He believes it was a fitting end to his first five years

It is encouraging in these days when we are told so often of racial "incidents" and tensions to hear Mrs Deakin say: "The children celebrate Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Chinese new year and Jewish festivals. They are taught to understand each other's cultures.

at Cecil Road.

nership between children, par-ents, headmaster, teachers, parents, governors and the local community."

Laura Joyce, nine, has the last word: The really good thing about this school is that we've got all sorts of different people. There are Irish, English, and lots from other countries and they all get on

schools this autumn, my first reaction was one of fury. Not rankings, or because I think they tell me nothing, but because they come a critical few months too late.

My elder daughter starts school this September. What I would give to be able to see, now, a league table of 11-yearold test results for all the schools in my London borough and its neighbours. As a iournalist, I am professionally trained to conduct research. But never have I spent so much time researching a subject to so little avail.

How are parents to determine whether a primary school is suitable for their child? In rural areas, the answer is simple: all the local parents send their children to the same school and word of mouth will suffice. In big cities, however, the choice is huge and the task correspondingly much harder. In my horough. Hammersmith and Fulham, there are 25 primary schools. Add in a couple of its neighbours, and the potential

So what could be simpler? I could call just three local education authorities and ask them to send me a list of test results for the schools in their area. But no, I was told, they were not allowed to do so. How about a batch of inspection reports? No, they have to be elicited from each individsome schools are reluctant to put them in the post. Ofsted, meanwhile, has inspected hardly any of them.

So then I tried ringing a couple of the better secondary

Bring on league tables now to end school lottery

ly nothing could be more invidious than to pass judgment on individual schools. Each time, from each expert, I was told: ask other parents.

The trouble is, most of the parents I know send their children to private schools. This is, perhaps, a problem peculiar to the London middle lasses. But it is a big problem. The only ones I manage to contact, through friends of friends of friends, had sent their children to the schools in question before the current head teacher had taken over. None could tell me what the new regimes were like.

So my husband and I determined to find out for ourselves. We had narrowed the choice down to three schools, but in a fairly haphazard, hearsay-dependent way.

t one school, we had A the opportunity of a full interview with the headmaster, in which he patiently answered a myriad of questions. In another, the lared only during a parents' tour, as she showed us and ten other prospective parents around. At the third, we had a brief chat with the headmaster in the company of many other parents before two children showed us round.

When other parents are there, you feel bad about monopolising the head teacher; partly on their behalf, and

meaningless answer, such as "Somewhere in the middle" or "A bit of both". If I asked "Do would be told: "Some of his views I agree with, others I don't." If I asked whether they used whole-class teaching or phonics, they replied: "Good teaching requires a mix of different methods." All true,

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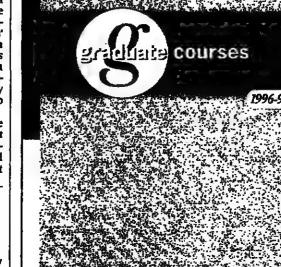
such as "Where would you

place your school on the

spectrum between traditional

methods?" I usually received a

but not exactly informative. Never have I had to take such an important decision on the basis of so little information. The choice we make will affect the schooling not just of our elder daughter but of her younger sister too, who will follow her a year later. Is this really what the Government



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Lies, damned lies and education statistics

hroughout the 1990s, Chief Inspectors of Schools have reported that one lesson in three was badly taught in English schools. Tony Blair even used the statistic (wrongly) when he launched Labour's latest education policy.

This year, the figure was mysteriously absent from the Chris Woodhead's annual report. Instead, we were told that half of primary schools and two fifths of secondaries needed

Why the change of measure? Presumably because the proportion of poor lessons is now 20 per cent, an apparent improvement at a time when concern over standards has

seldom been higher. The biggest change is in the four years of Key Stage 2, from seven to 11. by common consent the area of the curriculum that arouses greatest

We should take the inspectors' word for it if they find that standards are slipping, not rely on figures, says John O'Leary

concern. Last year 30 per cent of result, which is likely to be repeated lessons were unsatisfactory; this year

it is down to 21 per cent. Unless there has been dramatic improvement which Mr Woodhead is ignoring, the only possible explanations are that earlier estimates were exaggerated, or Ofsted inspectors are more easily satisfied than

Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Last month's test results hardly support the improvement theory, but even they have their critics. Education officers in Hampshire have discovered that up to 1,000 kw-achievers, who took easier tests as well as those for pupils of higher ability, have been counted twice. The nationally, is that mathematics and science scores for the county were underestimated by 2 per cent.

The science results already stood out while fewer than half of 11-yearolds reached their expected level in English and mathematics, in science, the subject said to pose most problems for primary teachers, the "pass" rate" was 70 per cent. The obvious conclusion is that if all the tests had been set at the same standard as science we would have been celebrating a success story, not criticising Ofsted's explanation for the appar-

ent improvement at Key Stage 2 is the

size of the sample. Now that the inspection cycle for primary schools is in full swing, data from more than 1.000 reports was available, compared with only 80 last year.

But, in that case, was it a responsible use of statistics to pass judgment previously on an entire age group on the basis of so few inspections? And how small was the sample in previous years?

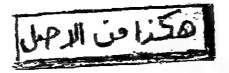
The demand for statistics is now such that perfectly valid judgments are taken seriously only if they have a figure attached. Mr Woodhead is in an unrivalled position to tell whether standards are satisfactory in English schools. His verdict must be taken

threshold that half of primary schools and two fifths of secondaries fail to meet? How do schools know which half they are in? The dominance of statistics has

obvious dangers, well illustrated by the counter-intuitive measures Mr Woodhead chose to omit from this week's report. Once they give the wrong message, the only option is to find another statistic.

The annual charade over GCSE and A-level results is another example, when falling pass rates are taken to mean failure but improvement automatically means lower examina-

tion standards. Judging educational performance notoriously difficult and often subjective. Perhaps we should accept that and take inspectors' word for it if they find that standards are slipping.



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Williamson wins fitness race to ride Master Oats

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT CLONMEL

THE Irish jockey Norman Williamson proved his fitness to ride Master Oats in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday when finishing unplaced here yesterday in his first ride back after breaking a leg four months ago.

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After passing a Turf Club medical examination Williamson made his comeback on Alice Freyne in a 22-mile maiden hurdle and, although the Mouse Morris-trained mare could finish only thirteenth of the 19 runners, Williamson was delighted with his fitness.

That was great. I'm very happy with the ride and I was fitter than I thought I would be," Williamson said. Kim Bailey, the trainer of

were under no illusions about the importance of yesterday's However, Williamson's

Master Oats, and Williamson,

comeback satisfied Bailey.

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Bullion Calego

Nap: UPPER ST CLAIR (3.10 Southwell) Next best: Bit Of Bother (3.40 Southwell)

watching on the SIS service at his Lambourn base yesterday. "I struggled to see him back there among the also-rans. But I just wanted to see him back on the track and he will ride Master Oats on Sunday. He will also get the opportuni-ty to sit on the horse, either tomorrow or Saturday. It's good to have him back," Bailey added.

The County Cork-born rider has been out since breaking his right femur in a fall from-Joe White at Sedgefield in October, but the frustration of the healing process ended

yesterday.
The Turf Club medical officer, Dr Walter Halley, who examined Williamson, said: I'm happy with Norman. He will take it easier than usual. for a couple of days, but he is

His intended comeback ride, Lucky Bust, was a nonrunner, but he was fortunate enough to pick up the spare ride on Alice Freyne.

He had no reason to be anxious about his return as amious about his return as Alice Freyne, always towards the rear of the field, put in an be an inspection at 1pm to hinge on an 8am inspection, uneventful display around a determine the fate of tomor while officials at Catterick uneventful display around a track where Williamson had his first racecourse winner, on Jack And Jill in 1988.



Williamson is looking forward to being reunited with Master Oats on Sunday

Williamson said: That was Williamson is waiting on to switch to Navan, where the exactly what I needed. The mare was never travelling that well so I was always pushing her along. I feel a lot better for having had a ride like that rather than on one that was taking a pull on me all the way

improved markedly. There are no reported problems at

Ayr, while the other three

determine the fate of tomor-

row's Tote Gold Trophy card. Richard Pridham, the clerk

of the course, said: "Prospects

inspections today.

lational Hunt fixtures hold

Today's Newbury fixture snow."
was called off, but there will Pros

the weather for more match practice. He is due to ride Eskimo Nel for trainer John Spearing in the £100,000-added Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury tomorrow. However, if the Berkshire

and easy today with one ride, but I will have a couple more on Saturday and, hopefully, Thaw offers hope for everything will be fine for the ride on Master Oats at Leopardstown on Sunday," he weekend fixtures

Prospects at Uttoxeter

tion at lpm.

Williamson also reported that Master Oats, who has PROSPECTS of a ceturn to are promising. The going is stayed in Ireland since last turf, racing tomorrow have good at the moment, with no improved markedly. There frost in the ground, but there Sunday's Hennessy postponement, is in good form. The is still some snow on the back Gold Cup winner has been stabled at Mick O'Toole's yard straight. Rain is forecast for on the Curragh this week. tomorrow so we hope this will clear away any remaining

prospects are brighter. He has

been offered several mounts.

including another Morris-

trained hopeful, What A Ques-

"I was taking things slow

tion, in the Boyne Hurdle.

Leopardstown reports no problems at the moment for Sunday's rescheduled card. The track is raceable, but the forecast is for heavy rain and report a rapid thaw and are strong winds so the threat hopeful of passing an inspecmay turn out to be waterlogging rather than frost.

SOUTHWELL

2.10 Golden Pound

3.40 Bit Of Bother 4.10 THE WAD (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.10 GOLDEN POUND.

2.40 Pharty Dancer

Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.10 Anastina. 2.40 Stevia's Wonder. 3.10 UPPER MOUNT CLAIR (nap).

DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

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1996: WHO'S THE BEST 5-7-6 N Variey (5-1) A Junes 15 am FORM FOCUS

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3.40 NORTH STAR HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2,818: 81) (5 runners) (5) 0100-25 RRET MATE 21 (8,0) (5 Boaring) 5 Boaring 9-7. C Teagas (5) (1) 082-23 AGENT 13 (8F) (6 Biason) J Eyre 9-6. R Lappin (2) 482-042 8T 07 BOTHER 7 J Baggott 7 Boarin 8-9 J Fertinate (3) 04-06-0 C COCON 11 (6 Bast) C Howlon 7-10. A Mediany (4) 30-0463 EFFETITE 11 (1 Umplaby) N Bycrol 7-10. J Dains

BETTRIC: 7-4 Bit Ol Bother, 8-4 First Maile, 7-2 Agest, 9-2 Expetite, 50-1 Coccon. 1995; PC'S CROIGER 8-0 D R McCabe (11-1) M Chapman 5 ran FORM FOCUS

PRIST MANTE Rack 2nd to Westman's Weigh in handcap over course and distance (AW) on perul-tingue start with ERPETITE (7th basis oil) \$11.7th. AGENT nack 2nd to Beganoose in handcap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7t) on perusticals start. BIT lebecther: PRIST MAUTE

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 2,10 Supergold: 3 10 in A Mornent

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Racecard number Draw in brighets, Sur-figure form if — lett P — polited up U — unscaled into B — brough down S — Sispand up. R — transit D — though from S — Sispand up. R — transit D — though from Harse's name Days cance led coding, J if jumps, F of that (B — Southers V — Near H — House E — Rechards C — course winner D — dictance winner D — the Timer Precare Hamiltonper's rating

4.10 PEACOCK SOUTHWELL SELLING STAKES SERIES (Qualifier: 3-Y-0: £2,398: 7f) (7 runners)

(3) D125-31 DRAGONJOY 14 (B.CD.G) (7 Sarma) J Payer 9-3 A McGione (1) 049-444 FOREJAM 7 (6) (Time of Wegan) & O'Soman 9-3 British O'Soman 9-10 0000-83 DOWN THE VARD 14 (7) (5 Whiteg) M Chapters 6-12 C Manufay (7) 49 644-95 (OCA) STYLE 14 WIGCON R HOMESTAGE 15 11 Wigner 6-11 F Lynch (7) 6 0045-4 MCONEZISSER 11 (Marchage & Medicalla J Ritograd 8-11 M Wigner (2) 206-640 THE WAD 18 (3/ Kety) O Micholis 6-11 J Vizzner (7) 6 BELACIOLA 14 Mais J Drapman D Chapters 6-5 A Challane SETTING: 9-4 Diagraphy 3-1 Foreign, 4-1 Kaonausse, 5-1 The Wad, 7-1 Loch Style 10-1 Down The Yard 25-1 Belacture.

1995: JOYRUL TRIES 7-13 Amende Sanders (20-1) Mrs N Marzauley 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

DRAGGRADY best Weich Melody 21 to 10-numer seller over course and declarace (AYI) with DOWN THE YARD IS that and LOCH SYME 1341 5th TREMANAI should 3441 460 of 7 to Seekings Destroy in hamiltage here (AWI 6) and the Course of

4.40 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP (£2,398. 1m) (16 runners)

-1 Yeoman Olives, 6-1 Karoska, Orchekarrot, 9-1 Sea Spouse, Kombarrote, 10-1 Belters Couples. East Barns, 12-1 Speedy Snaps Profe, 14-1 Gleonally, 16-1 patent. 1995. ROAR ON TOUR 6-10-0 R Cochrane (5-1) Mr. M Revoley 11 nm

KARINSKA 31 3nd of 8 to Cabiclarge Blue in handicap over course and distance (AW) hondalMATE best recent effort, beat Percoranuc, ned in 15-numer analysius handicap over course and distance (AW) and fixAlinsKA (38) better off) best Cover (Moon 114) in 8-numer and distance (AW) and fixAlinsKA (38) better off) best Cover (Moon 144) in 8-numer and distance (AW) off taxAlinsKA (38) better off) best Cover (Moon 144) in 8-numer apprentices market naudicap over course and distance (AW) on perulaturate start, Feb 1985 YEO-modelman and course and distance (AW) on perulaturate start, Feb 1985 YEO-modelman and course and distance (AW) on perulaturate start, Feb 1985 YEO-modelman and distance (AW) on perulaturate start, Feb 1

COURSE SPECIALISTS Mrs M Reveley
J Payne
M Ryan
W O'Gorman
M Prescott
J Filzgerald

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard
1.50 (Im 4): 1, SEATTLE SAGA (D R
McCabe, 10-11 hav); 2, Mister Aspectio (T
Williams, 4-1), 3, Burnt Ottering (M Lamen,
1-4), ALSO RAN: 10 Decoras (5th), 25
Cultural icon, 33 Royal Pyrn (4th), Tamandu
(9th) 7 nm 11, 61, 31st, 141, 51 D. Locker
Newmarkst, 7cts 61 50; 61 10, 61 70 DF
44 00 CSF: (5.22.

2-20 (7) 1. SPEEDY CLASSIC (S Drowne. 4-1); 2. Star Talent (A Whelen. 11-10 key); 3. Justinierus (J Ourn, 33-1). ALSO RAN 7-4 Sense O Phorty (4th), 100 Scboo (5th) 5 ran. Nt, 2bi, bi, 71 M Heaton-Elle St Wroughton Tole; 25-40, 21-80, 51-10 DF: 13-20 CSF; 18-30.

13:20 CSF: W3:30.
2.50 (7h 1. MOI CANARD (0 R McCabe, 5-2. Richard Eners's rept. 2. Domost L Wasser, 13-8 lay; 3, Green Gern (l. Dettor, 11-4). ALEO RAN: 12. Mystery Matthews (4th), 14 Doughan (5th), 33 Heaven Sent (8th), 8 man. 3, kil, 8, 6, 13, 13 Pearen at Limpalacit Tota 23:30; 21:30, 21:10 DF: 52:30, CSF, DS 50. 52.30. CSF. 10.50.
3.20 (5f) 1. THE INSTITUTE BOY (J. Weever, 7-1): 2. Awardha (I. Derton, 5-2 fav); 5. National (D R NatCobe, 9-2): ALSO FAN; 11-4 Tener (6th), 10 Creatly Chaopy, 12 Danmara (4th), Destart Daviesty, 16 Rocky Two, 33 Coder Girl (5th), Superiso 10 ran Sh hd, 21, 14, 3th hd, 31 Mass J Create at York, Tota, 67 70, 61.70, 67 70, 61.10 DE 97 70 Th, 512 60 CSF 524.55 Tricast

Jamel (5th), 50 Hever Golf Queen (6th), Lovely Strate, 7 ran. Nit, 41, nit, 101, 201, Fi Ingram at Fisienton, Tote, £11, 30; £3 20, £2.10 DF, £21 40 CSF £158,62 4.20 (Im 2) 1, KRYTWYN (D Harrson, 9-2); 2, Almunitarium (A Whelan, 9-4); 3, Robellion (R Cocharen, 5-4 ten, ALSO RAN; 8 Total Rach (4th), 33 Gallic Victory (5th), Noble Neptune (6th), 5 ran Wi, 11, 21 C Bisey at Lamboum. Total: £4 40; £1.60, £3.00. DF: £8.60 CSF £13.96.

Incident not wen (poel of £11,352.42 carried forward to Scuttivell today).
Placepot: £83.80. Quadpot: £24.90.

☐ Apprentice David McCabe rode a near 6-1 double on Seattle Saga and Moi Canard at Lingfield Park yesterday. Seattle Saga's trainer, David Loder, was full of praise for McCabe, saying: "I hope David will be champion ap-prentice this season." McCabe has now had eight rides this

year, four of which have won.

Lo Stregone has been backed down to 16-1 jointfavourite for the Martell William Hill and Ladbrokes have reported strong support for Tom Tate's charge.

mid-December until Christ-

mas or some time in the middle of January. Neither of

these times is predictable for

The suggestion is that play

ers would be rested in this period, but this is unlikely to happen. Players will need to

keep fit, so training would still take place, while the require-

ment for match-fitness means

that some sort of fixtures would be played.

An unlikely scenario? You have only to look to Germany

to see what happens. Their

midwinter break saw the nat-

ional team travel to South

Africa for an international match before Christmas and

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT This refresher is again on the theme of elimination.

> ed 1085 +A107 +K97 ₹KJ +0965 **⊕**QJ106

#J422

PAZ

PAG . **VASS7653**

Contract: Six Hearts by South

on the North-South cards, although it is difficult to construct a quence for getting there. After winning the club lead in hand, declarer lays down the ace of hearts. When the king does not fall, what should he do?

The point of the hand is that it is not necessary to try the spade finesse immediately. Declarer continues by playing a club to the king and ruffing a club, then plays king, ace and a diamond ruff. That has eliminated all the minor suit cards: now, South plays a

second round of hearts. If East has the heart king. he will play a spade and declarer has to finesse; but, if West has the king of hearts (as here), either he has to lead a spade or concede a ruff and discard.

☐ Fourteen readers replied on

EPHRON

RHODA

A fertile valley

b. A minor prophet

a. An excitable girl

b. A devout matron

c. A reluctant Roman convert

c. A cemetery-keeper

Lead: Oncen of clubs symbols or letters for the suits

in the bidding diagram. Twelve favoured letters, one symbols and one said that he had not made up his mind, but was replying out of politeness. So, it will be letters from now on in the bidding diagram, but suit symbols will be retained for the hand diagram — here, there is not a legibility problem, as the suits are always arranged in the order spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs. ☐ The three main bridge magazines are Bridge Plus, Bridge Magazine and Inter-

national Popular Bridge Monthly. They differ in char-acter considerably. If you would like a sample of each. send £1.20 in stamps to Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisley, Surrey, GU21 2TH. Robert Sheehan writes on

bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend the topic of whether to use section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

Weine ways label Vision 1

AHINOAM

JUBAL :

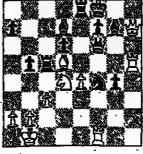
a. The day of judgment

c. One of David's wives

b. A crooked priest

Black to move. This position is from the game Ginsburg --Rodriguez, Uruguay, 1995. Although Black is a piece ahead.

a. Hardwood in the Ark b. The first musician c. A blacksmith Answers on page 37



EENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHERS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov's strategy Anatoly Karpov, the Fide

champion, has registered 136 victories in first class or international level tournaments. This is a record unlikely to be broken. First prize No 136 came at Groningen at the turn of the year. At present, Karpov is pursu-

ing his 137th success in the tournament in progress in Belgrade. In the game today from that event, Karpov subtly probes on both wings before breaking through with a bishop sacrifice on move 43 that ripped away the Black king's White: Karpov

Black: Ilincic Belgrade, January 1996 King's Indian Defence

3 Nc3 Bg7 0-0 28 Bg4 Nb4 15 Bxf3 ර Qe7 17 Qd2

18 Rae1

19 Bd1

20 g3

34 . Rbb1 Ne7 **K**17 38 Bc6 hxg5 Kith\$ 45 Rh1+ Kg8 Qh8

Ne4 Rfb8

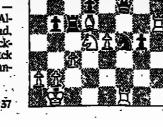
Norc3

Diagram of final position 建立建设建 企业企

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White has dangerous attacking threats. How did Black now simplify to his advan-



SPORTS LETTERS Threat of professional foul

From Mr Jim Dimmock

Sir, England's win over Wales at Twickenham last Saturday was not a victory for either attractive or professional rugby. The English rugby press, players and management have all analysed the game and, in true gentlemanly fashion, have seen faults only in the English game.

The game is now professional and, if it is to remain gentlemanly, then it must be played and judged professionally. The professional foul must not be allowed to develop.

The game against Wales had, at least, the right result, but the English were criticised for their playing style. But how can any side play to the best of its ability when the opposition is persistently and cynically breaking the law? The penalty count alone (21-9) illustrates the point, but watch the match again: persistent offside, hands in the ruck, tackling off the ball, obstruc-The referee tried to play advantage, but many times play was brought back because no

Yours sincerely. JIM DIMMOCK,

Ineffective ploys From Mr Ken Cookes

flair? These thoughts came to me while watching the Engmiddle of the field?

techno babble" coming from the coaches and pundits? The two ploys do not seem very effective to me. The commentators seem equally baffled. Rugby should be about flow

and speed to stretch the opposition until they run out of defenders. Play the game where the others ain t, as the Americans would say. Flat game is to maintain rugby's

advantage accrued or there was another infringement. If the new professional traditions and not devolve into a trade-off of professional fouls, let us see laws introduced which will really penalise offenders and stimulate the open game. In addition to the lock now awarded, give one point against the offending side for a penalty offence committed in its half (where it is proceed) to the country of the control is possible to gain the addi-tional three points) and give two points if in the opposition half (where the additional

points are far less likely). One can only speculate how the game might have turned out if this scoring system had been in place on Saturday, but it must be assumed that Wales would not have conceded 21 penalties. At least then the score would have depended more on the ability to play expansive rugby (difficult) rather than stifle it (easy).

Riversdale, Widbrook Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

movement and receivers of the

ball are frequently almost

standing still rather than run-

ning forward at full speed. We

used to run on to passes that

were thrown at least a vard in

front of us. The surge onto the

ball was thrilling and irresist-

ible. Lying flat was purely a

There were also only two

reasons for the back row to

hold on to a scrummage ball:

to create a pushover try or to

catch the opposition backs

defensive measure.

backlines tend to produce lateral rather than forward

Sir, Is rugby union a science or an art? Are coaches stifling

land v Wales match. Two aspects of modern play particularly baffle me. Why is it trendy for the backs to lie so flat in attack and why does the No 8 think it so worthwhile holding the ball at his feet when scrummaging in the Are we being taken in by the

offside. Pickups by the No8 are so ponderous and anticipated that they frequently come to nothing. What's wrong with a lightning channel one ball spun out along the steeply raked backs?

Yours etc., KEN COOKES. Staddlestones. Chaucer Road, Bath, Avon.

of bad weather in this country, making the timing of a break difficult to predict.

league games at a stroke. This move would also fall

tain a maximum of 18 clubs. of the biggest days for football,

certainly in terms of crowd numbers, and this is closely followed by the first weekend

Later changes

From Mr P. B. Coleman Sir, Mr Burdett (Sports Let-

ters, February 2) blames the introduction of comprehensive education in the Sixties for the decline in British cricket. I was at school in the Sixties and began teaching in the Seventies. I did not discern any change in teachers' attitudes to extra-curricular activities during this time and I witnessed my colleagues putting in many hours of extra coaching at the comprehensive school in which I worked.

The change in the attitude of non-specialist staff (I am still a witness to the admirable efforts of PE staff) came in the Eighties with the imposition of an open-ended contract for teachers followed by the mismanagement of the introduction of the national curriculum. We all know which party was in power at the time. Yours sincerely,

P. B. COLEMAN. 1 Hazel Close. Newton Poppleford. Sidmouth, Devon.

Alternative to winter break

its weather.

in January, when the third round of the FA Cup is traditionally played. Thus the timing of a winter break would have to be limited to From Mr Steve Corbett

Sir, I can only disagree with recent suggestions of the need for a midwinter break in football. One major problem is the lack of a regular pattern

If too much football is being played, the simple suggestion is to reduce the number of matches for each club, thus allowing players a greater period of rest. The Premier-ship should be reduced from 20 to 18 clubs, eliminating four

into line with Uefa's thinking, where the top division in each national league should con-Boxing Day is probably one

Jürgen Klinsmann suffered a knee injury in Bayern Mu-nich's friendly in Italy. Clubs would see this winter break as a way of keeping players match fit by playing lucrative games abroad, ne-

gating the supposed rest period. If there is a need to give players a rest, reducing the size of the Premiership, and a possible revision of the Coca-Cola Cup to single leg matches, should give everyone the extra time for training and recovery from injuries without a serious break in our season. Yours etc.,

STEVE CORBETT. Chelsea Court, 54 Mulgrave Road,

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.



| Makey 15-14, 3-15, 5-15, 15-1, 15-6, W | Stampylchev 6-3, 6-4

Crystal Palace keep Lewington

Bassett leaps back on managerial merry-go-round

By Russell Kempson

DAVE BASSETT gladly accepted one of the most precarious jobs in football - the managership of Crystal Palace - yesterday. He thusrenews his acquaintance with Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, whose vigorous, handson approach has so often led to conflict with employees.

Bassett, 51, first laid out his ground rules before agreeing 212-year contract at the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club. "I'm no puppet for anyone," he said. Ron is en outspoken chairman and I'm sure we will have our disagreements, but I said to him that, if he wants me to manage the club, he should let me get one with it. I wouldn't be here if I thought I wouldn't be allowed to do the job."

Steve Coppell, the technical director, and Ray Lewington and Peter Nicholas, the first-



team coaches, will continue at Selhurst Park. "I was keen that there should be no casual-Bassett said. "Although I have some sympathy for Ray and Peter over what has hap-pened, they have been doing good jobs and I'm sure they'll carry on doing so."

Cold weather wreaks havoc with FA Cup

THE snow may have been disappearing in many areas across the country yesterday, but it has already taken a heavy toll on the FA Cup. At the moment, next Saturday, the official date for the fifth round, is sure of only one tie; at most, it will have three out of the six scheduled.

*On Mozday, five days before the start of the fifth round, we will still be without Double, the Football Association press officer, said yesterday. "We really need the games at Swindon and Ipswich on Monday and Tues-day to be finished at the first attempt." The winners then would have home ties on February 17, joining Hud-Wimbledon on that day in the one tie that is on.

However, even if Swindon Town or Oldham Athletic, lpswich Town or Walsaii come through at the first attempt, the postponements

on Tuesday and the batch of draws on Wednesday evening mean that the fourth round will certainly not be completed before February 18, at the earliest. If Shrewsbury Town and Liverpool draw on that day, it would stretch until February 28, leaving the possibility that the fifth round even extend until

March 16. a week after the

sixth round is due to be

Snow is not the only cause of disruption. The greater notice that police require and their increased input into the choice of dates are also significant. Yesterday, for example, Leeds United were unhappy at the West Yorkshire Police's decision to demand a noon kick-off for the second leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semifinal against Birmingham City on February 25. which could east both clubs £100,000 in television fees if ITV is unable to show the match.

originally to be played at 4pm.

RESCHEDULED FACURITIES:

Monday, Feb 12 Fourth round: Swindon Town v Oldham Athletic (7.45) Replay (it required): Sat Faio 17 (3.0).

Tuesday, Feb 13 Fourth round: Ipswich v Walsali (7 45). Replay (4 required), Sat Feb 17 (3,0). Fourth round replays; Crewe Alexandra v Southampton (7.30); Oxford United v Wedneeday, Feb 14

Fourth round: Solion v Leeds (7 45). Replay (il required); Wad Feb 21 (7 45). Fourth round replays: Gnmsby Town v West Ham United (7 A5), Manchester City v Coventry City (7.45), Port Vale v Everton (7 45)

Saturday Feb 18

Aston Ville (3.0); Swindon Town or Oldham Ainletic v Southampton or Crewe (3.0); Huddersfield Town v Middleabrough or Withbledon (3.0). Sunday, Feb 18

Fourth round: Shrewsbury Town V Liverpool (11,0), Replay (if required): Wed Feb 28 (7.30). Rith round: Manchester United V Coventry or Manchester City (4.0) Monday Feb 19 Fifth round: Nottingham Forest or Oxford United v Totterham (8 0). Wednesday, Feb 21

Fifth round: Botton or Leeds United v Eventon or Port Vale (7 45), West Harm or Grimsby Town v Chelses (7.45). Wednesday, Feb 28

Lewington, however, still felt miffed. "I do feel a bit sleighted by this," he said. "I was picking the team, but I did have a few ups and downs with Ron. I wanted the final decision on the team and tactics, but he didn't feel that was the way to go. Peter and myself have got nothing to be ashamed of. We can hold our heads high and we've just got to get on with it." Bassett has masterminded

six promotion-winning cam-paigns with Wimbledon. where he first worked with Noades, and Sheffield United. He also holds the Football League record for the briefest managerial tenure - three days - when he joined Palace in 1984 before changing his mind and returning to Wim-

"I was a bit younger then and it seemed a good idea at the time," he said. "I soon realised I made the wrong decision." With Lewington falling out with Noades in public over team selection policy and Bassett still available after leaving Sheffield United by mutual consent in December, a change in Pal-ace's backroom staff was always likely. That it involved an addition, rather than a replacement, was the only

More strange was a lengthy statement issued by the club, that continually stressed its commitment to "playing good football". Bassett, throughout his 16-year managerial career. has usually been associated with the up-and-at-'em, long-ball version of the beautiful

"I'm very conscious of being typecast like that; it sometimes irks me and irritates me," he said. "Football fashions and trends change and of course ! would like to play eye-catching stuff, but you have to play in a style that best suits the players you've got. At the end of the day, it's all about winning. It's no good playing attractive football and then getting rele-

gated, is it?" side for the last time tomorrow, when Palace play at home to Sheffield United. before Bassett takes control. He was twice interviewed for the vacant Ireland job. but, after hearing nothing except that Mick McCarthy had been appointed, he pursued other

McCarthy's successor at Millwall was confirmed yesterday as Jimmy Nicholl, the Raith Rovers manager, Nicholl. 38, the former Northern Ireland and Manchester United defender, will take with him Martin Harvey, his assistani, at Stark's Park.

"I'm going to a new club and, within four months, we could be in the Premiership." Nicholl said. "Normally when you take over, the club is in a bit of a mess, but all Millwall need is a bit of fine tuning."



Howe points the way forward for the England women's football team at a training session in Slough

Howe to lift women's spirits

away from a vigorous five a side, only to be hauled back by that playground cry, "Hey, you're on our side". Poor Don. A pell-mell game of indoor foot-ball had not been on the seends until snow thwarted his hopes for a quiet morning in the sunshine at Bisham Abbey, Now, here he was, mixing it with the best in the land at the Montem Lane

Leisure Centre in Slough Not even such mundane surroundings could eradicate the minor moment in the history of women's football that came with the balding head and distinctive tones. Not quite El Tel, but the next best thing — The Don, so universally respected within the game, he never gets the England job, he just comes with it. A name, anyway, to lift the spirits of the England women's team before their European championship qualifying the with

Portugal in Benavente, near

Not that long ago, the very

Andrew Longmore watches the England management bridge football's gender gap

his time with a bunch of girls would have been suitable cause for dismissal, but the Football Association runs the women's game now and is anxious to show that it means business. Howe's presence in Slough for what the FA, and the players, hope will be the first of many upmarket training sessions was a statement

part battle cry. Attention levels lifted dramatically. "The girls were really buzzing," Debbie Bampton, the igland captain, said. "It's good for our morale to know that a really big name is taking an interest in us. Everyone was sitting there, listening to every word."

of intent. part PR exercise.

An hour with the video and images of Gullit, Van Basten and AC Milan was followed

notion of the most senior by a more down-to-earth five-coach in the land investing a-side. Time only for imparting general principles, not particular tactics.

"I just wanted them to ask questions about what they were seeing," Howe said. What shape was the defence? What was the midfield doing? I wanted them to see how a team like Milan presses, not as individuals but as a team, and to look at it as professionals, not just out of enjoyment.

They knew what was going on, they've been well coached, but, if I can help them out just by being here. that's fine. People might say. 'If Don's there, it can't be a sissies' game'."

More important for the players was that unaccustomed feeling of recognition, of being part of the club that Howe, the England coaching

include schoolboy, under-19 and under-21 teams. England FC, as he terms it. Encouraging girls to play football is all part of the widespread brief.
"If this team is successful,

more girls will be asking to play," Howe said. They could do with a bit of publicity. At the moment, they're paying for all this

Howe's input was welcomed by Ted Copeland, the England team manager, who led the side to the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Sweden last summer. "When Don comes down, they feel, 'Hey, this is the big time," he said. "It really makes the players think that people at the highest level of the game are taking an interest. I think Don has been pleasantly surprised by what he's seen, too."

indeed he had. "I've had good vibes." Howe said. Only the gender trap kept catching him out. Man on, watch your man. Difficult to change the

Syed has double **Olympic** setback

MATTHEW SYED. England's table tennis No 1, suffered another unlucky blow to his chances of getting to Atlanta in July when Chen Xinhua, his men's doubles pariner, withdrew yesterday from the Olympic qualifying competition in Nantes tomorrow, citing club commitments (Richard Eaton writes).

Because Syed just failed to come through the Olympic singles qualifying competition at Manchester three weeks ago, he is experiencing misfor-time in duplicate. Olympic doubles rules require at least one partner to have qualified in singles, and although Chen has done so by virtue of a high world ranking - 19 - Syed has to wait and see whether he gets a wild card for finishing as singles first reserve. That will be too late for him to go to

Lewis booked

Boxing: Lennox Lewis, no longer the No I challenger to Frank Bruno, the World Box-ing Council heavyweight champion, could meet Ray Mercer at Madison Square Garden, New York, in May. We don't have a solid deal, but we're working on it for May 10," Lou DiBella, the senior vice-president of HBO, the American cable television channel, said yesterday.

If the Lewis-Mercer bout is confirmed, Evander Holyfield and Tim Witherspoon, the

former champions could appear in separate contests on the same bill.

Norman adrift

Golf: Greg Norman, the sially being paid appearance money in the Ford Open champtoriship in Adelaide, lay seven shots off the pace after shooting a 74, two over par, in the first round yesterday. Glenn Joyner and Bradley Hughes, Norman's Austra lian compatriots, shared the

Holders happy

Hockey: Old Loughtonians are hoping to retain their national indoor tide at Crystal Palace tonight, with Julian Halls and Nick Thompson to guide their fortunes.

Tough battle

Rackets: Nell Smith, the British professional champion, lived dangerously against David Makey, the unseeded Tonbridge professional, before reaching the semi-final of the Lacoste British Open championship in five games. He will play Willie Boone.

Tanner in squad

Cycling: John Tanner, the winner of the Premier Calendar road race series lasy year. has gained a place in Great Britain's six-man squad for the inaugural Tour of Langkawi, Malaysia, from March I to 10.

Scattergun approach benefits world rugby

By David Hands, rugby correspondent FOR years, rugby union has

tended to cast a cloak of secrecy around the amounts of money available for the sport's development in a global sense: Yesterday, however, the Inter-Rugby Football Board (IRFB) declared its financial hand. From the profits of the past two World Cups, some £7.4

million has either been distributed to, or is earmarked for. nearly 50 countries. Moreover, the International Rugby Settlement, established in the Isle of Man in 1990, has funds amounting to £10 million - a. pot that is still growing - for fostering the game worldwide. "I see this as day one of the

development of rugby union." Keith Rowlands, the retiring JRFB secretary, said in introducing Lee Smith, the board's first development and resource officer. It will be the function of Smith, 48, who was New Zealand's director of coaching and development, to monitor and advise on requests for grant aid.

The litmus-paper test of how successful our system is will be seen after another two World Cups," Smith said. "When we can go into a tournament expecting a series of close games, then we will have an indication of rugby's growing maturity."

Some of the scorelines from the 1995 World Cup - 145 points scored by New Zealand against Japan, 89 by Scotland against the Ivory Coast -

emphasised rugby's lack of strength in depth. The IRFB hopes that the rationalisation of its support programme will reduce the gap between the sport's haves and have-nots. Smith's role will involve

telling any of the 71 countries that belong to the IRFB how to apply for aid. Not every application is a request for money, but for human resources in the shape of coaching, refereeing or development officers. "I bring an understanding of the game down to the grass roots." Smith said. That should enable me to advise countries on programmes, methods and development."

The E5.7 million that has been distributed so far tanother £1.7 million was approved only last week) consists of amounts large and small. The scattergun effect will fertilise the game and will give a kick-start to many of those unions who are desperately short of money." Rowlands said. "The 1991 World Cup created an explosion of interest in the game and the growth of national unions, all of which are under-funded one or two can't even afford to

buy team shirts." The requirements of unions boasting only six clubs clearly differ from established bodies such as that of Canada, whose grants have gone towards the establishment of an elite squad, but also towards an international rugby information centre in Ottawa.

Wales see virtue in youth policy

tionship that arises between a player and his audience. The rapport for some can be immediate, but others, for all their success, have to work harder to get the approbation of the crowd. Arwel Thomas, of Wales, fails into the first category, Neil Jenkins into the second. It is not just a matter of the way they play. Jenkins may be perceived as more of a linekicker than Thomas - but it is not actually the case - and, at this stage, he is infinitely more accurate as a place kicker; but the crowd response differs. A player may have

behavioural problems on the field, but this hardly stops the player from being the crowd's darling. Mickey Skinner, for England, contrived the image of a lovable rogue in most people's eyes in the way that Olivier Merle, of France, could not possibly be. Eric Cantona is more likely to enjoy an invitation as a dinner guest than Vinnie Jones.

Or it may be that the attraction is as trilling as the way a player looks and whether, in a crowd's opinion, he fits the part that they have set for him. Does he look the way a centre threequarter should?

There is a difference, too, between the player who means to show off what he can do with a rugby ball and the one who simply shows off; the one who is too big for his boots. Those on the Tanner Bank, who have a fine eye and ear for these things, know the difference. They discern the player who struts for its own sake



GERALD **DAVIES** On Rugby Union

rather than swagger for the game's sake Yet there is more to it than this. There remains the definable quality that causes a favourable reaction in some but that, in others, stirs feelings not so much of hostility as intolerance. There is something of this going on in Wales

at present. Wales lost to England last Saturday. This, in the distant past, would have been occasion enough for wailing and gnashing of teeth. The defeat in those days was not expected England are perceived to have problems that are more to do with character and disposition than tactics. Deep-rootedly conservative and preferring an institutional pattern, they will find it difficult within themselves to adopt the radical change that they wish. They know that the pattern of their games can be good,

very good — but only to a limited degree. Yet, if they were serious about change, they would have persisted longer, for instance, with Robinson in the back row and

'The kids did well' has been the most common refrain since last week'

to happen, so things had better be put right - and soon. More recent defeats have not been like this. They have aroused either a simple frustration or a collective bout of defeatism. The nation had grown to expect failure and wore their losses like a tattered

There was a sense of loss of hone: no anger, no passion. Not so this week. From flimsy and rather fragile evidence. Wales feels not at all bad with events at Twickenham. This is not because

garment of a shelterless waif.

restored Hull to full back. If they wish to change, they will need to take risks. Is it in their character to do so?

As for the approbation of the crowd, at Twickenham, this balances on a knife-edge. It adopts a two-faced stance towards its own players. The players are either seriously in favour or joylessly out of it.

As for Wales, it is the approbation that, for the moment, is a distinctive feature. This week, nobody really dared, even if they thought so. to be even moderately critical

even tolerant, mood. Why so? Admittedly, there were signs that this Wales team were seen to be "having a go", which has not always been obvious of late. There was striking individual performances, particularly at half back and at wing forward. There were inklings that they were avoiding the old hat ideas of the crash, bang. wallop type that not only disfigures the game but also is insistently unproductive in Wales. They were, in contrast, attempting to create and use the quick ball.

There were weaknesses. The penalty count against them -21 to nine - was highly unsatisfactory. Possession was not maintained long enough to pose a regular threat to England. Wales did not utilise Justin Thomas to best effect to the width of the pitch, where the speed of Gwyn Jones might have profited more. The key to the satisfaction is

the youthfulness of the players. "The kids did well," has been the most common refrain. all week. The kids and their exuberance have been rewarded with something far less than censorious judgment, that has been so common recently. This youthfulness is their defining quality. The crowd is on their side because they see, in them, the smiling Cavalier rather than the aus tere Roundhead. We must hope that the Arms Park crowd will not prove as fickle towards its players and more generous overali than Twickenham was last week.

Hicks continues to confound rankings

BY PHIL YATES ANDY HICKS, who is st-

tempting to become the first wild-card entrant to capture the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker title, reached the semi-finals of the invitation. tournament yesterday with a surprise 6-3 victory over John Parron at the Wembley Conference Centre. Hicks makes a lucrative

habit of reserving his best for the game's showpiece occasions. As the world No 17, he had no automatic right to compete at the Masters, but after runs to the semi-finals of the world and United Kingdom championships last saeson, it was hardly a suprise when he was included in the

Many players of proven ability find it difficult to do themselves justice on their first appearance at Wembley, but Hicks settled down immediately. He constructed three century breaks during a 5-2 first-round win over David Roe, played solidly to beat James Wattana 6-4 and outpotted Parrott to secure a semi-final against Ronnie O'Sullivan, the defending champion, or Darren Mor-

Despite making the two nighest breaks of the match, a 118 clearance in the first frame and a 91 in the fourth, Hicks trailed 3-2 before winning the sixth with a blue-to-black clearance after a poor safety shot from Parrott. Hicks, a left-handed Devonian, then

comfortably won the next two frames for a 5-3 advantage before completing victory by sinking the black to a middle pocket in the ninth. Stephen Hendry, who

monopolised the Masters between 1989 and 1993, recorded his 25th victory in 27 matches in the event by recovering from a 4-2 deficit to defeat John Higgins 6-4 on Wednesday evening. Hendry had prevailed in

only two of his previous eight matches this year and unforced errors continued to plague him early on against Higgins, a 5-4 winner when they met in the corresponding round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge five weeks ago.

The turning point arrived in the seventh frame. Hendry. 58-0 in arrears at one stage, eventually salvaged it with a yellow-to-pink clearance before finishing impressively on the back of breaks of 55, 54, and a 144 total clearance.

That was the second highest break in the 21-year history of the tournament, exceeded only by a 147 maximum from Kirk Stevens, of Canada, in 1984, and makes the world champion an overwhelming favorite to win the £10,000 bonus for

the highest break. Hendry will tomorrow meet Jimmy White, a player whom he has beaten in four world championship finals.

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cy.

Students of sport abounding in land of the springbok

A.S. NEILL, founder and then headmaster of Summer. hill School, said that, as noneof his pupils had gone on to become Members of Parliament, he must have got it

At Hilton College, near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. I asked the second master how many Hiltonians had attained international status in sport and he sent for the marketing manager who gave me the list: 15 cricketers: including McLean, Procter, Crookes; eight rugby players

— P. G. A Johnstone, G

Teichmann: 13 polo internationals, ten hockeyists, two oarsmen, canoers, golfers and tennis players and a dozen representatives of assorted disciplines from hot-air ballooning to rifle shooting. "You must have got it about right," I suggested to Gordon Crossley, who, when teaching

at Gresham's, Holt, in the late 1960s, accored 103 against Wisbech, Crossley said that the school was best known for its academic achievements. but then he would say that R. J. O. Meyer used to say it



ON FRIDAY

ional football team won the African Nations Cup. an excited radio commentator shouted: "We have arranved; look out world."

Bafana Bafana's (the boys' success, at football followed the lifting of rugby's World Cup. Test series victory against England and there are bullish noises coming out in respect of South Africa's Davis Cup tennis chances. It seemed a good idea to examine the infrastructure.

You turn off the N3 about 50 miles north of Durban at the Hilton exit. The sign shows. Hilton to the right Hilton College left and I

drove along a handsomely tarmacked mad by the Umgeni river through stunning countryside, past forests of yellow-wood and pine. That is the school drive; seven kilometres on, you reach the school gate. Hilton was founded as a

school for 50 children by an Anglican minister in 1872 and the founding fathers had the wisdom to buy up land ... 3,500 acres. Today, there are 500 male pupils, about 10 per cent non-white. I arrived during central hour: 1.45-2.45, when boys can do whatever they like but not games. "If we lost prohibition, they'd all be out there playing touch rugby and cricket," I was told, and by 3pm it was all better. By the entrance, beyond the

slave bell, a boy was playing the one-hole golf course. Two fully occupied with three bowlers per batsman. There were four practice games. You could tell because the boys wore white shorts; longs are reserved for matches.

The pool was filled with boys swimming and boys diving; athletes ran along the drive and around the hal-

Hilton College, the South African school renowned for sporting achievement

lowed turn of the school's rugby ground, where crowds of 7,000-8,000 come when Hilton play against their arch-rivals, Michaelhouse.

Coaches shuttled boys to the river for rowing and canoeing, to the lake for sailing. In the gymnasium above the three full-size basketball courts, a couple of of the art machines, with that

many again busy at the hoops. There is an indoor cricket net in the corner. Squash is hugely popular, Hilton play in a summer squash league and the place abounds with tennis courts.

As this is the cricket season and the eyes of South Africans are on Hansie Cronje and his men on the sub-continent, I asked how many of the boys play competitive cricket.

teams, also under-15 A, B, C and D and under-los ditto: then there are five open sides ... and for every boy who gets play, there is probably another one waiting for his

On Saturdays, when Hilton plays matches against other schools (they also compete in the ground eating picnics and watching their lads in the under-15 Cs; urging them to hone their skills and maybe make it to the under-15 Bs. Last year, Hilton sent its team to tour England and play in

their record was played 13, "Who beat you?" "Durban High School in

the Oundle cricket festival:

"Was that a big blow?" "Well," the cricket master said, "we try to win, but we don't have post mortems. Sport occupies a high level in outh African consciousness. Before we were isolated, we were the best sportsmen."

"Well, it's the weather and the emphasis on outdoors and our history of success in internationals, probably be-ginning with the brilliant fielding of Cheetham's side in which McGlew and McLean and Endean did what Rhodes does now.

I stand behind a row of six nets, watching the action and notice a fair-haired boy of 14 bowling with a high, smooth

Faldo's

sinking

feelings

subside

That boy has a terrific future," I was about to say when I noticed a 13-year-old in the next net late-cutting a as did P. G. H. Fender on the Woodbine cigarette cards of my youth.

The fact is that the place

abounds with talent and ambition and sportsmanship ("please do not mention that ie of the fathers at Michaelhouse is suing the school for excluding his son from the team about to tour Australia"). And as I leave this hive of sun-blessed activity, the golfer at the gate is still at it: drive, chip, putt, putt. Next year, they are going to build another hole: a 100 per cent increase in sports provision which will be nicely executed by some of the three figure army of Hilton

Sunshine and inexpensive labour are helpful in the pursuit of sporting excellence, but love of the game and pride of their country is what gives South Africa the edge; this is a land of professional

British driver leads weird and wonderful launch of the new Sauber-Ford

Herbert kick-starts grand prix career

IN BADEN, SWITZERLAND

WEIRD was not what we were expecting in the stolid depths. of Switzerland, but weird was most definitely what we got. The launch of the new Sauber-Ford Formula One car here yesterday cast Johnny Herbert and Heinz-Harald Prenizen. its drivers, in the roles of mildly embarrassed extras in a costume musical that made. Star Trek look tame by comparison and put the extravasance of the Benetton launch in Sicily on Monday in the

Imagine a science fiction version of Springtime for Hit-ler from The Producers and you might begin to get a picture of the cavortings on theatre in this village outside Zurich. There were men and women painted silver, multicoloured lasers and a vast array of pointy caps. "We will in the race, we will be heroes." the cast sang as Herbert and Frentzen looked in. "We will go faster, we will not be zeros."

are now taking you to a different world," a Sauber you to a new dimension this season, to go where no man has been before."

Milian Y. TEN

After what seemed like an through the next act, an epivictories.



It took a while for the significance of all this to sink in, but eventually it did. "We official announced from the stage. "We are trying to take

eternity, the singing stopped and Herbert talked his way sode that Great Britain's most popular driver is determined will not be his epilogue after a fraught year in the shadow of Michael Schumacher, the world champion, at Benetton in 1995. Attempts to sideline him undermined his racing. credibility, although he did collect his first two grand prix

"It was a hard year last year." Herbert, 31, said. "From the start, there seemed to be rumours that every race would be my last race. It was here, they have been friendly

ATHLETICS

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Herbert commands centre stage at the launch of the new Sauber-Ford while Frentzen, right, and Norberto Fontana, the team's test driver, look on

stupid and it must have been coming from somewhere. Looking back on it, I think it's affected my performances and

upset my psychologically.
"I really lost all the enjoyment out of racing. I hardly spoke to Flavio Briatore, the managing director, in the second half of the season and it was very difficult. Coming though I have got out of jail. "So far, Heinz-Harald has shared everything with me, which is a big difference to what happened with Schumacher, and I just have to make sure it stays that way. After last season, I got the feeling that people think that

and welcoming and it feels as am, but I have got a lot left to . prove in Formula One."

Herbert accepted that he may find himself pitched straight into a situation like the one that he laboured under at Benetton. Frentzen is one of the most highly-rated young drivers and has already been at Sauber for two years. He is I'm not as good as they the team's No I, but Herbert is thought I was. I know that I confident that there will be

TEMMENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Postponed: Dunfermline v St Nirren. Third round replay: Postponed: East File v Caladorfan Thistie.

BELL'S BCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier dhésion: Aberdoen 1 Right Rowers 0 First dhésion: Aberdoen v Hamilton. Third division: Postponade Cowdenbeam v Livingston; Albion Rovers v East Stiding.

CYCLING

NIMES: Etolia de Bessegau: First atage (1444 letomagres): 1, W Nellesen (Bel) Sir 13mm 16sec; 2, J Svorada (Sovelas); 3, J Capot (Bel), both same lime Leading

FUGBY LEAGUE

AYON INSUFFANCE COMBINATION: Pres
division: Totenham v Chelsea (at St
Albers)
FAI HARP LAGSET CUP: Second mund:

Bohamians v Kilkenny (7 45); Drogheda v Shelbourne (7 45); St Patrick's Ath v Panad. LEAGUE OF WALES: Postponed: Caerswa v Inter Cardifl.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (2.0 unless stated)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup .

Fifth round West Hull v Wakeleld (at The Boulevard, 7.30) .

more pooling of information this time. It could be a good year, too. Sauber are powered by Ford VIO engines, there are high hopes of the new chassis and the new pairing of drivers is being touted as an "explo-

sive double package". Herbert said that he would like to gain a measure of revenge for the treatment that

last year by beating him in a race this season - Schumacher is now at Ferrari. Herbert thinks that Damon Hill is the favourite for the world championship and that Jean Alesi will thrive at Benetton - and, like everyone else, he was mesmerised by the characters on stage yester-

he received from Schumacher

day. "I tried to sing along." he said, "but I couldn't keep up." Boone bi G Barker 3-15, 17-14, 15-2, 15-12, N Smith bi D Makey 15-14, 3-15, 5-15, 15-4, 15-6. SNOOKER

IMPERIA, Italy: World Cup meeting: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, M Foster (GB) 21:70 sec: 2, A Popor (Russ) 21:90 200m freestyle: C Trioge: (Ger) 1mm 48.91sec 800m freestyle: C Trioge: (Ger) 1mm 48.91sec 800m freestyle: C Houssand (Aus) 7:51:59 50m bediestroke: S Theloke (Ger) 25:58sec. 200m backstroke: E Mens: Iti) 1mm 54:45sec. 100m baraststroke: P Rogers (Aus) 59:92sec. 100m baraststroke: P Rogers (Aus) 39:92sec. 100m baraststroke: P Rogers (Aus) 39:92sec. 100m baraststroke: P Rogers (Aus) 59:92sec. 39:00m baraststroke: L Cepta (B Popor Comment) 100m freestyle: L Cepta (B Popor Comment) 100m backstroke: L Vigaram (It) 1:02:39 50m baraststroke: L Vigaram (It) 1:02:39 50m breaststroke: L Lacusta (Rom) 2mm 26:57sec: 200m batterfly: C Varna (It) 27:84sec, 200m batterfly: C Varna (It) 27:84sec, 200m batterfly: C Varna (It) 27:84sec, 200m batterfly: D 7:10msec (Aus) 2mm 11:18sec. 100m individual medicy: Ruan Tian (Chrus) 1:04:29:400m individual medicy: Ruan Tian (Chrus) 1:04:29:400m individual medicy: 1, N Sweetnam (Can) 4M9.08.

ICE HOCKEY

RACKETS

WENELEY: Barson and Hedges Minatura. Second round: A McManus (Scot) bt M Stavens (Males) 6-5: 5 Hendry (Scot) bt J Higgers (Scot) 6-1 Quarter-finat: A Hicks (Eng) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-3. EWIMMING

TENMIS BRANHWILL Mon't worlds tournament (GB unless stated): First round: B Cowan bt P Pale (Ct) 6-3, 6-1; C Beacher bt P Hand

to Probe (C2) 6-3, 6-1; C Beccher bit P Hand 7-5, 7-6, J Alven (Swe) bt N Aorts (B) 6-3, 6-3; C Beccher bit P Hand 7-5, 7-6, J Alven (Swe) bt N Aorts (B) 6-3, 6-3; C Beach (R) bt R Wassen (Holl) 6-2, 7-5, M Rush (Ven) bt R Koenny (SA) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; C Haggard (SA) bt F Coste (B) 6-4, 6-1, N Could of M Stading (Swe) 6-2, 6-4; A Handson bt J Kodes (C2) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, A Coster bt M Navarra (I) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, S Groen (Holl) bt G Gallmoeth (II) 7-5, 6-4, I Husberger (Swiz) bt L Million 8-2 7-5; D Draper bt O Sola (Sr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; J Delgado v V Navy (Hun) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; O Stenophilos (Bul) bt J-O Rios (P Rico) 7-5, 6-1, Second round: S Humphres (US) bt R Matheson 6-7, 6-0, 6-3; Beecher bt B Covar 7-6, 6-2, J Alven (Swe) bt Gaudi 6-3, 6-3; Haggard (SA) bt M Rush (Ven) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; N Gould bt A Richerdson 7-4, 6-1; S Groen (Holl) bt Foster 7-6, 6-4 Heuberger bt D Draper 6-1, 6-3 J Delgado bt Stanoylchev 6-3, 6-4

Woosnam struggles in heat at Sun City

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN SAN DIEGO

A YEAR ago, Nick Faldo was seriously worried about his putting and was questioning his decision to abandon the European golf circuit for the more consistent conditions prevailing on the US PGA

A missed three-footer caused him to miss the halfway cut in the Buick Invitational and it was not until he captured the Doral Open, his fourth victory in the United States, two weeks later, that his fears subsided.

Faldo yesterday returned to the two Torrey Pines courses at La Jolla for the Buick event this week at ease with himself and with a putting stroke that he is convinced is close to matching that with which he won five major champion-



With The Times today, a 24-page guide to the Corporate Golf Challenge and details of how to enter

ships. It was at La Jolia last year that he became so confused that he alternated between the cross-handed and

the conventional styles. Faldo, who returned permanently to the traditional method last September, said: "i won't be chopping and changing this week. I am still working on my touch but I am happier on the greens than i

was this time last year." Faldo knows that his putting is suspect when he leaves the ball short, as he did three times in his last competitive round, at Pebble Beach last Friday. "There is no excuse for coming up short," he said. "It's really a question of having the confidence to attack the hole. I have told

myself to be more aggressive." The greens on the North and South public courses at Torrey Pines are fast but true and Faldo will be trying to make the most of the conditions before beginning his preparations for the Masters with a run of five tournaments in six weeks, beginning at the Doral Open at the end of this month.

IAN WOOSNAM made a disappointing start in pursuit of a third successive tournament victory yesterday. He wilted in the heat and finished the opening round of the Data

> nament at Sun City, South Africa, six shots off the pace. Nick Price, a former winner of the Million Dollar Golf Challenge on the Gary Player Country Club course, shot a 68, to share the lead with Sven

Dimension Pro-am golf tour

Struver, of Germany. The tournament, the first of three back-to-back events that form part of the European Tour, is being played over two par-72 courses, the Lost City and Gary Player Country Club. Today, the players swap to the alternate course and then play the final two rounds

on the Gary Player course. Woosnam, of Wales, fresh from PGA European Tour victories in Singapore and Perth, shot a 74. Other European strugglers Costantino Rocca, of Italy, on 73. Per-Ulrik Johansson, of Sweden, 78, and David Feherty, from Northern Ire-

land, on 79. Price, the world No 2 from South Africa, and Struver went out early, on the Lost City and Gary Player courses respectively, and held the lead throughout a long, hot day in which rounds took up to six

hours to complete. "I think it's going to be very tough to adjust from playing the Bayview grass at Lost City to the Kikuyu at Gary Player Country Club," Price said, especially when it comes to chipping.

Straver, 28, whose best finish is a fourth place in the Irish Open, managed five birdies and a solitary bogey at the par-three 4th. "I played the best I've done in a while," he said. "I hit 18 greens and missed only two fairways -

and then only by a metre." Thomas Levet, the first French golfer to compete on the US PGA Tour, in 1993, shot a disastrous 90 yesterday. with halves of 48 and 42. In with a better chance of playing the last two days are his compatriots. Christian Cevear, 74, and Tim Planchin,

Wayne Westner was disqualified for practising on the Gary Player course after his 72 on the Lost City. He hit "about ten five-irons down the 10th fairway", and main-tained that it had "always been regarded as a practice tee". However, Andy McFee. a Tour official, ruled that both layouts jointly constituted the iournament course.

THE WAS TIMES 24hr skiing information direct from the resorts in: AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND • ITALY REST OF EUROPE • N. AMERICA/CANADA SPAIN/ANDORRA - ROMANIA/BULGARIA Or for a faxed report, dial: 0891 662 258 from a telephone linked to a fax machine #WEATHERLINE 0891 333 462 Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead The did Date of Brest Behale SKT The Est Date of Brest Behale 118 Estan Square, London SWTW Sq.F CLUB 130 years, London SWTW Sq.F CLUB 430 years at all other pages 430 years at all other pages 430 years at all other pages

GHENT: Indoor maeting: Merc 60mc F Fredericks (Nam) 8 52'sec 200mc Fredericks 20.37 40mc D Miles (US) 45'93 800mc J-C Vialettes [Fr] 1mm 49 18'sec 1,500mc 1, F Rono (Ken) 3 40'00 3. M yates (GB) 3'44'01 S,000mc V Nyrongabo (Bur) 7'43.13. 60m hundles: J N'Sanga (Bel) 7'6'Sec Pole vault T Lobrager (Ger) 5 7'5m Warners Edmc I Prosboret (Riss) 7 14'sec 200mc S Herneshlern (Fr) 23'40 800m. S Jongmans (Holl) 2mm 01 7'Secc 60m hundles: O Shathigura (Kazi 7'Rissec.

MOSCOW: Indoor meeting: Men: 50m: R

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 35 **EPHRON** (c) Son of Zabor, a Hittite from whom Abraham bought for 400

was buried there, as were Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah. (a) An excitable girl in the house of Mary, mother of John Mark, where a number of Christians were gathered to pray for Peter. apprehended by Herold Agrippa I. When Peter, having escaped from prison, knocked on the garden door, she recognised his voice but was so bowled over that she ran back to the house with the near instead of Letting in Dates.

the state of Macpelah at Hebron and the field and trees that went with it, as a burial place for his wife Sarah. He himself

the news instead of letting in Peter. (c) A woman of Jerreel and one of David's wives. Together with Abigail, she was taken to wife by David after his first wife. Michal, was taken away from him by her father, Saul, Ahinoan was the mother of Ammon who raped his half-sister, Tamar, Dayd's dysfunctional royal family made the Windsors look like sustanty and unrapacious models for the fatuous mag apparently called Hello!.

IUBAL

(b) Son of Lamech by his first wife, Adah. He was the first harpist and organist, the ancestor of those who make music and musical instruments. His brother was, irritatingly, Jabal.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE .. Nad5: 2. Rxf6 Nxf6 and the White queen is trapped and so Black wins easily on material. The state of the s

(7 Pera Regi) 31:23, 3, WO2 R Keeney (5 AB Log Bri) 31:26. Team: BAD Kineton. Women (4 Berr) 1, 5g K Holmes (AGC) 17:06; 2, 5gt S Sharp (FMAS) 17:27; 3, S Sgt M Brackey (FMP PS) 17:33 Team: Northern Instanct.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Milmeu-lee 93 Toronto 89; San Antonio 99 Boston 89; Alterni 101 Autente 69; New York 87 Washington 62; Philadelphia 102 Indiana 101: Detroit 97 Orlendo 83, Portlend 103 Minnesola 93, Litah 102 Vancouver 79. Chicago 98 Golden State 95; Houston 110 LA Clipperis 102; LA Lakers 108 New Jersey 98

96
BUDWEISEN LEAGUE: Laicester Ricers
64 (Algmer 28, Harris 14) Shelfield Shertes 77
(Cauffrom 15, Huggins 15).
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CLUB: Semifinal series: Group B: Pau-Orthez (Fr) 22
Barcelone (Sp) 70.

BIATHLON

RUPHOLDING, Germany: World champlonehips: Women (7 Seri) 1. D Romesko (Russ) 22min 30.5sec; 2. A E Skiebrez (Nor) 2249 9; 3. M Wellin (Swe) 22-52. 4. G Kuldewa (Russ) 22-53 1. 5. C Nogret (Fi) 23 13.5. 6, H Medretsplass (Nor) 23 16 1; 7. G Skiebrez (Nor) 23 18.2. World Cappositions (after ten races): 1. E Clare (Fi) 199pts; 2. A Greate (Stoventa) 163: 3. U Dts (Gerl 162; 4, A Branta (Fi) 158; 5, M Wellin (Swe) 153; 6, F Beverel (Fi) 148

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four) Brisbene: Owersland 150 and 181; New South Wales 159 and 8-1. Hobert: Tasma-nta 258-8 v South Australia.

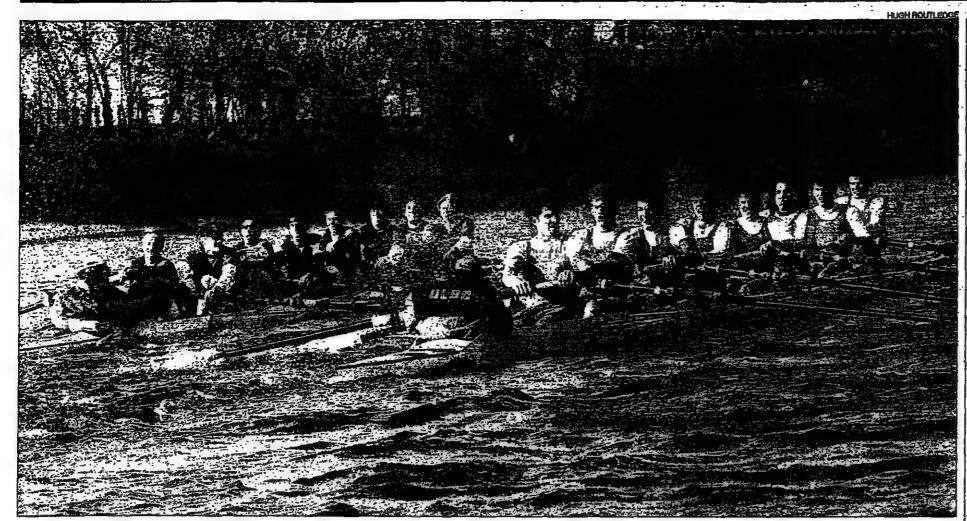
FOOTBALL FA CUP: Fourth round: Cherkon 3
Brendord 2: Covering 2 Menchester City 2:
Middlesbrough 0 Wenthedan D: Notthighern
Forest 1 Oxford United 1; Southempton 1
Crewe 1: West Harth 1 Ghreby, 1.
Postponed: Shrawsbury v Liverpool; Swindon v Oldhern, Fourth round replay:

SCHOOLS MATCHES (2.0 unless stated)
Miclanda county championehips Under18: Semi-finel: Humberiside v Shropeinie (at Quibet Park, Scuriforpe), English Schools Snichers under-19 Trophy: Second round: Monisseion, Whitey Bay v York College, York S Cultiber's High School, Newcastle v Yorkshire Coast College, Seavborough (at Berwell, 1 45) OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser Langue; Be-mangham v Derby (7.30); Leopards v London (7.25). SNOOKER: Berson and Hadges Mesters (Warnbley).

SUN CTV, South Mitest Dissersion Data
Fro Ant Find round (SA unless satisficity in Price (2m), 8 Struver (Ger) 69; M
McMidy (2m), 8 Pappas, R Kaplen, 70; 8
son der Menny 71; C Bedoman (US), P
Lesma (GB), D Terblanche, M Contarte (US), M
Halberg (Swe), C Davison (GB), P Price
(GB), C Writelawr 72; K Coody (US), M
Hennung, P Eales (GB), P Goosen, G Turner
(NZ), T Byorn (Den), D Pappas, V Philips
(GB), P Horgan (US), P Moore (US), I
Patmer, W Schutta, M Gronberg (Swe), G
Evans (GB), T Horgan (US), P Moore (US), I
Patmer, W Schutta, M Gronberg (Swe), G
Evans (GB), T Horgan (US), P Moore (US), I
Patmer, W Schutta, M Gronberg (Swe), G
Evans (GB), T Horgan (US), P Moore (US), I
Patmer, W Schutta, M Gronberg (Swe), G
Evans (GB), T Horgan (US), J
L Johansson (Swe) 72; C Rocca (II), F
Nobiol (NZ) 74; Woosnen (Walse) 78; P
U Johansson (Swe) 78; D Feherty (NI le),
CHONBURI: Thelland Open: First round:
67; R Cuello (Phi), L Barber (US), J Ce
(US) 68; E Meels (US), C Statis (US), R
Wentworth (US), D Wasson (GB), J Snigh
(India) 68; K Kaneyama (Lapan), T
Berranger (US), M Goojel (US), C Pera
(US), 70; K Beker (Cen), A Singh (India), H
Shirakaide (Japen), Shirakaide (Japen), S Yong, In (Roc), E
Fyeri (GB), R Bootic (US), L Potter (US), C
Larran (Ver), Sanen Saeng Su (The), P
Marksaeng (The) HOCKEY LUCKNOW, India: India: Gandh Gold Cup; India 5 United States 0; South Korea 4 Australia 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL). Buttato 2 Boston 1; New Jersey 1 Pitisburgh 1, Montreel 4 Delikes 2 Coloredo 4 Terripa Bay 4 Washington 2 Edmonton 1, Torosto 2 Anaheim 1; Hartford 5 Vencouver 3. COPENHAGEN: Olympic Games quality-ing tournament: Dermen: 2 (Nessen, Durs) Great Britain 3 (Plommer, Adey, Morgan).

OUEEN'S CLUB: Lacosle British Open championship: Quarter-finals: J Male bt J Prenn 15-1, 16-12, 15-2; S Smith bt D Malkay 15-14; 3-15, 5-15, 15-4, 15-6; W 6.00am Herry's Cal (9582644) 6.15 Blue



Spray flies as the crews of the University of London eights, Greasy Spoon, right, and High Fibre, engage in their rowing trials on the Thames yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). The crews included five full Great Britain internationals, three of whom — Rupert Obholzer, Tim Foster and Graham Smith look likely to be wearing Olympic vests in July. International under-23 and junior representatives were also present.

Greasy Spaon, on Surrey, won both contests, the first, from Putney to Hammersmith, by a mere canvas, and the second, from Chiswick Steps to Mortlake, by almost a length. In both races, Greasy Spoon, stroked by Stewart Whitelaw, the Great Britain lightweight international, took an initial lead but

never managed to break clear. In the first contest, Obholzer, the High Fibre stroke, brought his crew back level just 15 strokes from the finish, but Greasy Spoon, with Tim Foster outstanding at No 7, squeezed ahead again. In the second, High Fibre seemed to have the race won when they took the lead at Barnes Bridge, but Greasy Spoon, helped by impressive steering from Jessica Wright, held on around the outside of the bend to complete a double.

Maurice Hayes, the London University rowing management since the departure of Paul McGann, the Australian, last summer, said that Rusty Williams, his men's coach, and London performers, were instrumental in the club's present success and spirit. Interestingly, the spirit was enhanced by the inclusion of a race for two women's fours yesterday. Six of the crews involved will seek Great Britain representation this

Bradford plan union challenge

BRADFORD Bulls are the latest rugby league club to consider playing a challenge match against rugby union opposition. The move comes after Wigan's plans to play two games, one under each code, against Bath this summer. Bradford hope to arrange a challenge against Leicester along similar

We are investigating the possibility of a game against Leicester," Chris Caisley, the Bradford chairman, said. "It's an interesting development and could well be a financial success for the

The matches between Wigan and Bath will be played on Wednesday May 8, at a northern venue under league rules, and Saturday May 25 in the south under union laws. ☐ Rugby league clubs are to be allowed to sign five overseas players instead of three, the existing limit. However, those players from emerging nations will no longer be exempt from the register.

The Rugby League Council adopted the Framing the Future guidelines yesterday, under which clubs must meet minimum standards on facilities, appoint separate chief executives and finance officers and allocate half their funds from the £87 million Super League to capital spending pro-

Backwoodsmen intent on setting one more ambush

SIX hundred yards separate the West Hull club from Hull, their professional rugby league neighbours. It is another world across the to topple another set of professionals anything to go by, the passion will be unbelievable."

Anlaby flyover, except that the team that has gone further in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup than any other amateur side in 99 years will feel at home there in their fifth-round match against Wakefield Trinity to-

Two weeks ago, at The Boulevard, the backwoodsmen of West Hull ambushed York — a second professional scalp in the competition to add to their humiliation of Highfield was a record. Upsets by Thatto Heath, this year, and Beverley, last season and in 1909, were one-off

Wakefield's proud history in the Challenge Cup — they have won it five times — has heightened talk of a third giant-killing act by the Conference League team, even though the first division side should win comfortably. Not that Wakefield anticipate, or are likely to receive, an easy ride on an icy night on Humberside.

As much as he would have loved to have drawn Wigan, Eddie Bennett, the West Hull coach, appreciates that Wakefield, on a hiding to nothing, at least offer some hope of advancement to the quarterfinals. "It'll go one of two ways - we'll get duffed by 40-odd points, or they'll freeze, and

we'll sneak it," Bennett said. Whatever happens, the upstarts have already resoundingly made their point, raised

Ruddles County Riddles.

Christopher Irvine finds amateurs keen

£20,000 for club funds and revelled in their odyssey. In a city dominated by the rivalry tween its two professional sides, the interiopers of West. Hull can boast of having gone further in the competition than Hull Kingston Rovers, fell in the fourth

"People here have woken up to the fact that there is a team other than Hull and Rovers," Bennett said. "Unlike them, we seem to have the entire city behind us. We usually get 300 or so, but we're looking at around 5,000 on Friday night, which is better than Hull's average. If the York game is further apart. The original

The recent return fire, by the cannon fodder of the amateur ranks in the Challenge Cup, has asked serious questions of several professional sides.

Moreover, it is a timely reminder of grassroot teams' playing ability in the worsen-ing rift between the professional and amateur governing Unification is the only solution, but, in laying down

terms, the Rugby Football League (RFL) and British Amateur Rugby League Associ-ation (Baria) have moved

== 7



Bennett, the West Hull coach, looking for cup progress

junior rugby has got lost in a battle of bloated egos. Heads need knocking together for the common good.

Progress needs to be made and quickly. The amateur seedbed produced 200 professional recruits last season, compared with just 14 signings from rugby union. There is mutual dependence. but, without a vibrant and healthy amateur set up, the

the amateurs are sticking to playing in winter, and to the laws that existed before the mid-season introduction by the RFL of changes to the scrum, play-the-ball and restart. As the new laws apply in the Challenge Cup, West Hull must adapt accordingly. "We have coped," Bennett said, "but it's hardly designed to make life easy."

At the club, which began in 1936 and was reformed 25 years ago, the popular consensus is that the team playing today is as good as any West Hull has had. With six Barla internationals in the side, there is no shortage of talent or experience, especially in the influential presence of Dave Roe at hocker, Stuart Parr at stand-off half, and Carl Newlove, provided he is fit, in the loose forward role.

Bennett admitted after viewing a borrowed video tape that Wakefield were bigger, stronger and faster. They were all that — but that's not to say they will have our spirit," he

Portway's signing points way forward

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

for Purfleet

PURPLEET football club this week signed Steve Portway, the striker whose 50-goal-aseason feats for Gravesend and Northfleet earned him a move to Gloucester City that was wrecked when he received a freak eye injury from a ball smashed into his face.

Portway's signing from Romford, of the Essex Senior League, is a determined move by Purfleet to preserve their hard-won place in the premier division of the Icis League: but, unfortunately, Portway is cup-tied and so must miss out on the arduous assignment against Macclesfield Town in the FA Umbro Trophy

Although bottom of the table, with just two wins and 20 goals in 20 matches, Purflect registered a stunning upset when they beat Rushden and Diamonds, the rumaway leaders of the Beazer Homes League, in the first round of the Trophy at Nene Park last month.

So, they know exactly how they want to play against the Vauxhall Conference champions, who are at the head of the competition once again this

"At Rushden, we set out to do a job," Norman Posner. the secretary, said. "We had five at the back, four in midfield and one up front, and stopped them playing football. To do that and try to get something on the break was the only possible way we could beat them."

Gary Calder, who has steadily lifted Purilect up the non-League ladder since being appointed manager in January 1991, when they were second from bottom of the Isthmian League second division north, is taking his team to Congleton for an overnight weather permitting. We're doing things proper-Calder believes that

Purfleet are at the crossroads. You mustn't forget the club is only ten years old," he said. "We either push on or slip back the way we came. I'm sure we're going to push on."
The recruitment of Portway, and John Ridout, from Enfield, will undoubtedly help. These signings are also a mark of the undiminished commitment of Harry and Tommy South, the owners of the club, who developed

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derelict technical college.

Purflect's ground at Ship

Lane on the playing fields of a

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Call 9891 500 123 Call 0891:100 123

Green fingers in the pink

Gardening Under the Raj. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Sue Phillips has strong together some recollections of green-fingered Sue Phillips has strong together some recollections of green-ingered British expairs, mainly women, of the many decades when india was still a big patch of pink on the map. Trying to replicate England's green and pleasant land in a foreign clime was sometimes hilarious, occasionally daunting, and often downright impossible. Elephants would himber across the lawn, leaving a string of miniature pools in their wake. Cows ruined petunia beds, Scavenging monkeys had to be shot out of the trees with rubber builets. To break up the hard soil, dynamite sticks were exploded. The aneodotalists we hear from this morning all sound as if no speck of dirt would have dared to seek refuge under their finger-nails.

Radio 2 Arts Programme: Welsh Rarchits. Radio 2, 10.00pm.

I do not know what Glenys Kinnock would say if she was challenged to explain how a busy-bee of a European MP also finds time to present a two-hour arts magazine from Wales, but I believe that I do know why she was asked to from Welsh Rarebus. She is Welsh and a know why she was asked to from Weish Kareous. She is weish and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Also, she comes over well on radio. One of the topics foright is Weish National Opera's 40th birthday. I well remember its first season: a goodish Madama Butterfly and a ribtickling Bartered Bride. The question asked then, and since, is: why no Weish National Theatre too? That is another of the topics tonight.

Peter Davalle

RADIO I Chris Evanse.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Usa l'Anson 2.00 Nicky Campbel 4.00 Mark Goodla7.00 Essential Salection Merix Goodler/1.00 Essential Selection 10.00 John Peet, Jungle artist A Guy Celled Geraid in session 1.00em Radio. 1 Rap Show with Tim Weetwood 4.00-6.00 Lynn Persons ...

7,30 Wogen 9,30 Ken Bruce 11,30 Junny Young 2,00pm Deloie Thrower 9,30 Ed Steven 5,05 John Durn 7,00 a.su go steerer as a John Durin Julini Jase Speaking Volumes 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night a.45 Whisky Gelore i Placif by Stanisy Backer (2/5) 2.00 Listen to tifus Band: Brighnouse -and Pastinck Band under Devid Hinst 10.00 Welsh Hambibs:

lain Morning Reports 6,00 The Bresidast Programme, B.35 The Magazine, with Desire Macille 12.00 Micidaly with Mair 2.05 Record on Five, Incl. at 8.45 Entertainment News. 4.00 John Invendate: Nationavide, Incl. at 8.45 Entertainment News. 7.00 News Edits. 7.35 Alan Green's Spottstalk 8.35 Off; Plata width Mary Nightstream R.05 American Guellet, with Jonathus Freestand 9.39 Stop Press. 10.85 Entertainment Superhightsty, with Quenth Cooper 11.00 Night Betra, Incl. at 11.15 The Rosencial World Tonight 12.05cm; Aller Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Werr 7.00 Stron Bates 10.00 Joresham King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Reception 4.00 Scott Chichelin 7.00 Sec.

The Histories 7.30 Surviving the 20th Century 4.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News In German 9.15 Faith 9.45-Sports 10.00 News 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Oit the Shell, Heroclotus—The Histories 11.00 News 11.30 Merician 12.00 News 12.05pm. Whole Reviews 22.05pm. Whole Reviews 22.05pm. Totals 2.00 News 2.05 Cubook 2.30 Materiack, Alternative 3.00 News in German 3.18 Music Fleview 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business 5.45 Sport 8.00 Newsclesk 6.30 News in German 7.01 CuBook 7.25 Words of Section 3.00 Newsclesk 5.35 Words of Faith 7-30 Matthrack Alternative 8.00 News 9.00 News 9.85 Business Report 9-15 Bitsian Today 9.30 Petiple and Politics 10.00 News 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Spotlight 11.15 Surviving the 20th Century 11.46 Farming World Mildinight Newsdesk 12.30 mm From the Weeldes 12.46 Enther 1.15 Seven Cays 1.30 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 News 1.19 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Chart. Show 4.00 News 4.30

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All times in GMT. 5.00em News 5.31 Europe 6.00 News 6.30 Europe 7.00 News 7.15 Oil the Shell: Herodotus -

4.00mm Mark Griffiths 8.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concern 3.90 James

6,00am Rust 'n' John 6,00 Richard Skinner 12,00 Graham Dans 4,00pm Noby Home: 7,30 Paul Come 10,00 Mark Format 2,00am Homed Paulos

6.00am On Air, including Biber - (Sociate VI in F, Sociates tiem) Vaugnan Wilsams (Symphony No 5 in D); Vivaldi (Conceito in A mino); Debusay (Prifitude ii l'après-midi d'un (aune); 8.05 Elgar (Great is the Lord); Shoetakovich (Ballet Sulle No. 3)

Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, including Stravinely (Scherzo à la russe); Liszi (Lee Cloches de Genève, Armées de Pélerinege), Rimaity-Koraaltov (Scheherazade)

Musical Encounters.
Including Dufey (Baissmus et munda cere); Brahms (Violin Sonata in Dimeno, Op 108):
10.28 Artist of the Week: Nancy Argenta, soprano, with Eugene Asti, piano, arigs four modern American songs; 10.40 Amodd (Piano Sonata);

10.40 Article (Pierro Sonata);
Delius (Two Aquarelles);
Martin (Bellade); Wolf (Anaine Aolaharle); Borodin
(Symphony No 1 in E Ital)
12.00 Composers of the Week:
Les St. Auric (Imaginées VI);
Mithaud (Sonatine); Honegger
(Praktie, Tita Tempest);
Talleferre (Concertino for harp and orchestra); Poulenc
(L'Emberquement pour Cythare)

Manchester Music from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House, Bernard Roberts, plano, performs Beestroven (Plano Sonata in Ellist, Op 7); Hindernitin (Plano Sonata No. 3)

2.00 Schoola: Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

The Rev Alan Walter visits a Hungarian Reformed Church neer Barons Court Underground station (8/9).

4.30 Braza: Black Gold, The last programme in the series explores the legacy of the gold and diamond inher of Mines Gereis in the 18th-century Portuguese colony The Music Machine with

5.15 in Tune, including Mondorville (Overture, Titon

et Aurore); Rodgers (Staughter on Tenth Avenue); (Stinks, (Sextet in E fiet) 7.30 BBC Philhermonic under Gamea (Secot in E red)

BBC Philibanaonic under

Yan Pascal Torteller, with

Howard Shelley, piano, live
from the Free-Trade Hall in ger, Judith Binchen (Beyond Redemption)
Besthouen (Piago Con Besthoven (Plano Concerto No 4 in G): 8.30 Notes and

Spaces, Lynna Walker examines the outlook for orchestras in the north of England; 8.50 Sibelius 9.40 (Symphory No 1 in E minor) 9.40 History Now and Then: Imperalism. Presented by

9.40 History Now and Then:
Imperialism. Presented by
Roy Porter
9.50 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker
Introduces highlights from last
year's festival in Sao Paolo.
Including Silvio Fernez (Janela
No Espetho D'Aguet); Harry
Crowl (Icnoculcett); Domenico
Coko (Sertao Sonoro); Silvio
Fernez (Canto De Cure)
12.00-1.00-am Selti, Smokle,
Satire. The last programme
in a sty-pert series on the
history of cabaret

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, incl weather 6.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Partisment 8.58 Westher 9.00 News 9.05 Depart Island Discs. Soc Lawley talks to Eve Amold (r) 9.45 Feedback 10.00-10.30 News; Gardening under the Raj (FM only). See choice of Wership (LW only) 10.15 This Seeptr'd Isle (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour. Sylvia Horn talks to the Japanese-Indian dancer Shakii. Sertal: Cause Celeb by Helen Fielding, abridged by Jame Marshall. Read by Jennifer Ehle (2/12) 11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Joanna Pinnock. 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme Darek Cooper tales a look at how vitamin supplements are made 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Carles 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55

Clarks 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 2.00 News; Claseic Seriet:
Giltter of Mica by Jessie
Kesson, charactice by Anne
Downie, about a Scottish

3.00 News; The Afternoon

4.00 News; The Americon Sing, with Larie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Katelidecope, includes reviews of the new Steven Polision play and Matthew Hart's new work for the Dearth Rollet

4.45 Short Story: You by Alise Gray. Read by Smor Cade 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast

5.55 Weather 6.06 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Pisces with David Stafford

8.30 Goting Places with David
Stafford
7.00 News 7.06 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with
Christopher Serie
8.05 Any Quegitions? Jonathan
Dimbleby chairs a topical
discussion in Nowich. On the
panel are John Billen, MP.
Germaine Greer, author and
lecturer, Geoff Hoom, MP. a
member of Lebout's Trade
and Industry Isam, and
Charles Moore, Editor of The
Daily Telegraph.
8.30 Lew in Action, with Marcel
Berlins

9.15 Law in Action, with Marcel
Berlins
9.15 Letter from America by
Alistair Cooke
9.36 Kateldoscope Feature. Paul
Alien is ionnet by director
Declan Donnellan and
designer Nick Omerod as
they talk about their theatre
company Cheek by Jowl (r)
9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tontight, with
Robin Lustig

Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Beditime: God

Stand Up for Bestards. David Leitch reads his action central reasons as a cation of the ca 11.25 Fourth Calt

14.45 Today in Parliament 12.00 News, incl 12.27am We 11.48 rossy incl. 12.27am Weather 12.00 Heurs, incl. 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Reef by Romesh Gunssekera, Read by Shiv Greyal (5/7) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1 FM 97.6-99.8 RADIO 2 FM 88.0-99.2 RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4 RADIO 4. FM 82.4-94.8; LW 199; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 893, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 683, LW 198 (12.45-5.55cm). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215; TALK RADIO UK MW 1053, 1089.7-elevision and redio Butings compiled by Peter Deer, GREEN MARNET.

Eric and his friend Edith confused a stranger the other day, while enjoying a few pints of Ruddles County at their local pub. During lauch they were approached by a shifty-looking spiv. He opened up his cost to

No. 2. Have you got the time?

reveal a selection of watches at bargain prices. To encourage the dabious enlookers he carefully removed the outer casing of his favourite watch, so that Eric and Edith could admire the intricacy of its workings." I bet you're never seen such a complex mechanism," he outhosed as Eric and Edith quaffed their flavoursome pints of Ruddles.



Edith, irritated at having a quiet drink spoilt, quipped, "That's where you're wrong. I have a chronometer with so many components, it would take an age to count them all. To which Eric added, "And I own one which has so moving parts whatsoever." Having concluded that there was nothing special about his watch, they sent the puzzled stranger on his way.

To the head brower at Raddles, who is foreser checking his watch to easure that County is fermented for exactly the right length of time, the answer to this riddle was obvious. But if you don't have the time to work this one out, try moving this paper to 6.30 precisely.

Solution: Eifilb ornes an inoutgloes and Eria entes a remital.

ing 'nd

ion

Militant man has reconstructed himself

any unkind things have York's Eighties, including the ludicrous suggestion that the 1980s happened too recently to merit a retrospective series. Well maybe so, if you spent the century's silliest decade making meticulous notes of who did what to whom and why. But, if it is, as it is for me, all a bit of a blur, then York's ridiculously stylised reminders of a ridiculously stylised ten years have been rather fun.

Now, what has all that got to do with last night's television, you ask. Two things. First, that at the current rate of transformation I predict Derek Hatton will have turned completely into Peter York by the year 2003. And secondly, that My Brilliam Career (BBC2) has - like York's series - been a well-timed and entertainingly executed reminder of people and events which, without a bit of help, could easily be forgotten.

Last night it was Hanton's turn defiantly scouse "eh" was immacubeen said about Peter to take a trip down short-term late. As his doting father said: He memory lane, back to the could go on the stage tomorrow strawberry fields of Militant-run and be a comedian." The only Liverpool. One of my Big Three narrators, Veronika Hyks, was wheeled out for the occasion but she hardly got a word in. For Hatton, as we were quickly reminded, has a prodigious gob on him.

These days he supplements his income as a public relations man and television presenter by picking up £1,000 a night on the afterdinner speaking circuit. The pat-ter, as you would expect from one of the world's great self-publicists, is silky smooth, particularly on the question of would he do it all again? Yes, if it could be 1983 again

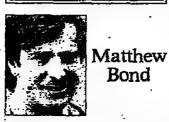
"Life's very different, politics are very different, the economy's very different, people are very different and, eh. Derek Hatton's very different." The timing of the table top thud to coincide with the

question is - how would we tell?

T Towever, it was Hatton's past, rather than his future, that was the matter in hand. His father (interviewed, rather successfully, while having his hair cut) recalled his son's early career as a fireman and his little-known involvement in the church. He was as fervent about religion as he became about polinics, recalled a friendly curate. The same curate would later compare Hatton's story to that of Jesus

Christ, which seemed to be stretch-ing religious metaphor a little. The key section dealing with the stiort-lived glory days of Militant was cleverly constructed, with contributions from colleagues. family and political opponents all intercut with symbolic footage of where he had gone wrong. The

REVIEW



Everton beating Manchester United in the FA Cup Final. The infamous day when this Trotskyite city council actually secured extra

Bond

funding from a Tory government was marked by the Everton skip-per litting the FA Cup. The crowds roared. Victory. Patrick Jenkin, whose Environment Department provided the additional funds, was in no doubt

one mistake I made was trusting Derek Hatton and they used that to try and smash my political career." As summaries go, it appeared spot-on and archive footage of cheering, chanting Socialists made it difficult to disagree with Hatton when he described Jenkin as "incredibly naive".

That, of course, marked the turning point. Mrs Thatcher was "incandescent with fury", Mr Kinnock incandescent with concern that if Labour councils went round issuing redundancy notices to their own employees he could kiss the next general election goodbye. Hanon and his allies were expelled from the party, a decision which in Hatton's words, "marked the end of an era".

It also lonce we had rather skated over the subsequent police inquiry and Hatton's acquittal on fraud charges) marked the end of a highly successful series. Its subjects, our fallen heroes, have been tempted by the chance to air their grievances, while we wallow in delicious Schadenfreude. A most enjoyable combination.

ver on BBC1. The Vet was also coming to an end — and very silly it was, too. "Mum, she's got the bull walking around the vard," shouted Stephen down the telephone to his mother, Jennifer (Suzanne Burden). Nothing too complicated there, you might think.

After all, by that time we had spent half an hour in the company of the eccentric Miss Paley and her buil with the broken leg. Jennifer had set it herself - as those who have been paying attention to the opening titles knew she would, Surely then the words "she", "bull", "walking" and "yard" would ring a few bells. But no. Cue much tossing of blonde hair and the adoption of a series of puzzled expressions: "What do you mean,

sooner she runs off with the RSPCA man the better.

Mind you, now poor Patricia (Diana Kent) has met her end in a car crash the whole field of unresolved sexual tension is wide open again. Chris (Richard Hawley) may be consumed with grief at the moment but I have a sneaking feeling that if and when a new series comes around he might just be ready for a little gentle flirting. As long as he remembers to speak

slowly . . . well, who knows? Finally, Thief Takers (FTV) was notable for two things, a technically impressive beginning (a single tracking shot that appeared to go through two glass windows, across a street and up a flight of stairs) and an old-fashioned but still gripping finale. You can't beat a good roadblock. What came in between wasn't bad either.

■ Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

6.00am Business Braskfast (33712) . 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Cesfax) (64083) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax)

79.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3235118) 9.45 Kilroy (s) (5794842) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (21809) 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weether (6022199) 12.05pm Turnabout (s) (9573267)

12.30 Going for a Song (s)(52151) 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceetax) and weather (67170). 1.30 Regional News

1.40 Neighbours (Cealex) (s) (34484151) 2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9782002)

Moon Over Milemi. Light-hearted detective series, with Bill Campbell and Lysette Anthony. (Ceafax) (s) (4042977)

3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (s) (5070170) 3.50 Look Sharp! (a) (1497880) 4.05 The All New Popeys Show (2601996) 4.15 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (5640809) 4.30 Mask (Ceefax) (s) (1719575) 4.55 Newsround Egira (Ceefax) (1048441) 4.50 Mills Bidge (Ceefax) (1048441) 4.50 Mills Bidge (1048441) (Ceefax) (1048441) 5.10 Situe Peter

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Cestex) (s) (494538). N.L.: 5.35 kraide Ulater 5.00 Stx O'Clock News (Castax) and weather

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6.30 Regional news magazines (642) 7.00 Gag Tag. Bob Monkhouse oversess the cutz for stand-up cornics (Ceefex) (s)

7.30 Tomorrow's World includes a report on plans to anchor an oil rig in the frozen waters off eastern Canada for the first time (Caellax) (s) (288)

8.00 Just Good Friends, Penny-is determined to tell Vince that she wente nothing more to do with him; but where is ne? (r) (Cesticus (8809)

8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman fires questions at Bill Beaumont and lan Bothern and their, teams of sporting abrities (4204) . . 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Castax), regional

news and weather (3063) (Ceefat) (a) (3086536)

N.I.: 9.30 PK Tonight 10.20 Alteon's Last Mountain 11.40 FILM: Scapdish 1.15-2.15am Daydream: Mariah Carey -Madison Square Garden

10.50 FILM: Scapdish (1991) starring Sally Field, Kevin Kline, Robert Downey Jr and Whoopi Goldberg. Manic comedy about a sosp star's status being threatened by her written out. Directed by Michael Hotiman (Ceelbo) (a) (8908731) WALES: 10.50 All Our Lives 11.20 FILM: Soapdish 12.55-2.20mm FILM: Crucible

12.20 FILM: Cruoible of Terror (1971) starring Mike Reven, Mary Maude and James Bolarn: A deranged sculptor is on the latches onto his lifelike bronze sculptures. Directed by Ted Hooker (61,99687) 1.50em Weather (6455519)

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BBC2 6.00am Open University: The Changing Experience of Education (1650712) 6.50

Panel Painting (5142002) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceeta) (8459170) 7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceetas) (52248) 8.00 F.O.T. (r) (s) (29335)

8.30 Johnson and Friends (s) (1369354) 8.40 The Record (s) (2541903)

6.05 Daytime on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.30 Playdays (s) (25606) 2.00 Johnson and Friends (r) (s) (38892880) 2.10 Open View (10068151)

2.15 Sport on Friday, Masters another and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (434460) 3.55 News (Ceolad) (1013083) 4:00 Snooker --- the Masters (s) (9538).

Google (b/w) (Cested (496557) 8.26 The New Avengers. Steed, Purcey and Gambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Ceeter) (855002)

7.15 Electric Circus. Enterpainment nows and reviews (s) (645642) 7.30 Sounds of the Eightles. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Ceats:) (s) (828). N.L.: 7.30 Hearts and Minds

8.00 Top Gear. Motorsport. Reports on Carlos Sainz, the tormer World Relly Chempion (Cestex) (s) (9151) 8.30 Gerdening from Scratch. Last in the series (Ceelex) (s) (8286)

9.00 Rab C. Neebitt: Fether. Reb visits life father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Ceelex) (s) (1625) 9.30 The Fast Show, Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (r). (Ceetex) (s) (70567).



Punny girl Liewella Gideon (10.00pm)

10.00 The Real McCoy, Ian Edwards fills this Week's showcase spot with the regulars who include Lac Chester, Feltx Dectar, Liewella Gideon and Meers Syal. (Ceefax) (a). Followed by Talking Cézanne (23151)

10.30 Newsmight (Coefno) (568287)

11.15 Fantasy - Football , Leegue, . David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison-Moyet and Angus Desyton (a) (630267). WALES: 11.15 Welsh Lobby (630267) 11.45 Fantasy Football League (639538) 12.15mm Weather -(7720107) 12.20 Snooker — the Masters (6350519) 1.00-2.55 FILM: Spirit (512403)

11.45 Weather (357118)
11.50 Snooker — the Masters. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (603199) 12.30 Files: Spirit (1988) with Paul Phys and finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley

(68045). Ends at 2.30am

《数》 数 **多** 数 数 Moon Over Miami

BBC1, 2.40pm A daytime slot does not suggest much confidence in this import from the United States, and Moon Over Miami is no masterpiece. But as light and undernanding fare it is excellent of its type, the equivalent of those unpretentious comedies that used to roll effortlessly off the despised Hollywood assembly line, Walter Tatum (Bill Campbell) is a private detective surprisingly given to spouring Shakespeare. Gwen Cross (Ally Walker) is an horress, also (and even more surprisingly) that the best line of the Broad Cross (Ally Walker) is an horress, also (and even more surprisingly) with the best line of the Broad Cross (Bill Campbell) with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the Broad Campbell with the B surprisingly) with a hot line to the Bard. Their paths cross when she goes missing and he is hired to find her. The relationship is prickly but enduring, complicated because he already has a girlfriend (Lysette Anthony). Campbell and Walker are not Tracy and Hepburn, but give them a chance

Channel 4, 6.00pm

The manic Chris Evans is just the man for livening up those parts of the schedule that big audiences do not normally reach. He made coroflakes time a national talking point with The Big Breakfast, switched to Saturday evening to present Don't Forget Your Toothbrush and was called in by Radio I to reverse its flagging ratings. His latest challenge is the early evening slot, which he is filling with live music, an irreverent look at the week's headlines and visits to far-flung watering holes. Tonight's bands are Skunk Attantile, Bluetones and Count Indigo and the guests are Kathy Lloyd and Dawn French: Most of all the show, full name Thank (Channel) 4 it's Friday, is a vehicle for Evans. If his performances sometimes seem like a triumph of energy over substance, there is no better anchorman.

Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's ... IIV, 8.30pm

The best writing of Ray Galton and Alan Simpson — and The Radio Ham is certainly that - is not only funny but also exquisitely structured. In a piece of music, themes are enriched and much the same happens to Galton and Simpson jokes. These are not dropped in arbitrarily but integral to the narrative, launching it, sustaining it and providing the punchline. The writers responsible for today's shapeless sit-coms should take note. The Radio Ham was written originally for Tony Hancock and even after more than 30 years there will be Hancock fans who know most of it by heart. Paul Merton, in what is almost a solo performance, sensibly plays the script his way and comes close to making it his own.

Altern's Last Mountain BBC!, 9:30pm (Scotland, 10.20pm)

The husband and children of the climber Alison Hargeaves make a pilgrimage to K2, the world's second highest peak, where she lost her life last August at the age of 33. Christopher Terrill's documentary intercuts a poignant journey of farewell with footage of Hargreaves as she reflects on the dangers of her sport. The result, particularly for those inclined to condemn a mother of young children (six and four when she died) for putting her life at risk, is a much fuller understanding of a woman whose passion for climbing did not exclude a love of home and family. Jim Ballard, her husband of seven years and partner for eight before that, says: "She knew she wasn't immortal but requested by the children. Tom and Kate, to enable them to say their goodbyes. This they do, in a moving climax. Peter Waymark-

6.00em GMTV (2522712) 9.25 Win. Lose or Draw Outz (s) (3210809) 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5509625) 10.00 The Time ... the Place (s) (1750644) 10.35 This Morning (15601151) 12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6011083) 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3362118) 12.55 Murder, Site Wrote (8) (4749422) 1,50 Home and Away (Teletaxt) (36260903) 2.20 Chain Letters (Teletext) (6) (57997354) 2.60 The Good Health Guide (3709996) 3.20 News headlines (Teletert) (2039915) 3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2038288)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (1402712) 3.45 Zzzap! (1407267) 4.00 The Sylveste and Tweety Mysteries (1027236) 4.25 Gladiators: Train to Win(Teletext) (1020373) 4.55 Get This (s) (1040809) 5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8453354) 5.40 News and weather (Teletext)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (463083) 6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (586644) 6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (459286) 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Couples play for a new car and cash (Teletext) (a) (7557)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Taletext) (354) 8.00 The Bill: Back in Business, Conway's colleagues are relieved to see he has not lost his touch (Teletext) (3977) 8.30 Simpson's. The Radio

Hem (Teletext) (s) (5712)



Baker and Revenecroft relax (8.00cm)

9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Simisola (3/3) inspector Wexford is at a loss to unravel the reason any of the victims has been murdered, until one of them survives an attack, giving him a substantial lead. Starring George Baker and Christopher Ravenscrott. (Teletext)

10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (776809) 10.40 FILM: Columbo: No Time to Die (1991). The hapless private eye, blunders his way through another murder inquiry, uneminally trapping the over-confident killer in the end (63701335) 12.25am Hotel Babylon (s) (6346316)

1.05 The Good Sex Guide ... Late (s) (8780229) 2.05 FILM: Full Exposure: The Sex Tepes Scandal (1989) staming Lisa Hartman. Vanessa Williams and Anthony Denison. A hard-nosed cop and a shy district-attorney join forces to solve the murder of

a high-class call girl (635720) 3.50 Live from London (r) (s) (9691294) 5.00 On the Live Side (40010) 5,30 Morning News (48519)

HTV WATES As HTV WEST except: 2.50cm-3.20 The Realty Programme (3709095)

6.25-7.00 Wates Tonight (641995) WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.25-12.30 My Story (6029002) 12.55 Coronation Street (3347809) 1,25 Chain Letters (84739083) 1.55 Home and Away (37610444) 2.25 Wish You Were Here...? (57996625) 2.55-3.20 Cat Crazy (2875462) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8453354)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (62538) CENTRAL As HTV West except: 12.55 Home and Away (3347809)

1.55 A Country Practice (34498354) 2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote: Three Strikes, You're Out starring Angels Lanebury, Todd Bryent and Tim Dunigan (1238354) 5.10-5.40 Shortlend Street (8458354)

1.25 Chain Letters (84739083)

8.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (641998) 10.40 Central Weekend (63701335) 2.06am The Chart Show (8645316) 3.00 Cool Vibes (25104126) 3.05 Dear Nick (5487774) 4,05 Jobfinder (1392855) 6.20 Asian Eye (1183126)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3347809) 1.25 Home and Away (84739083) 1,55 A Country Practice (34498354) 2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote: Magnum on

foe starting Angela Lansbury, Tom Selleck and John Hillerman (1238354) 5.10 Home and Away (8453354) 5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Your Story

6,00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (82538) 5.00am Freescreen (40010)

SIC Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5123977) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (57793) 9.00 Fifteen to One (37354) 9.30 Schoole (74373) 9.30 Eureka (\$127539) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (4572444) 10.00 Fourways Farm (3284880) 10.10 Eurokids (8555557) 10.25 The Technology Programme (8543712) 10.40 Off Limits (9046170) 11.05 BackTrack (7192335) 11.20 Stage One (7113828) 11.35 Schools at Work (7650151) 11.40 How We Used to Live (2723151) 12.00 Sesame Street (64995) 1.00 Slot Meithrin: Plismon Puw (50880) 1.30 Film: Son of Fury (77460) 1.30 A Taste of the Caribbean: Dominica (39086880) 3,20 Terrytoorts (9246712) 4.00 Backdate 1877(10016 (9240712) 4.00 Beckbase (933) 4.30 The Pulse (267) 5.00 B Pump: Anke (542353) 5.15 5 Pump: Syth 96 (7398426) 5.30 Countdown (847) 6.00 Newyddion (849625) 6.15 Heno (383460) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwrn (761793) 7.25 Cerdd Y Cymry (929606) 8.00 Cefn Gwfad (4847) 8.30 Newyddion (3354) 9.00 Pawb Al Fam (203847) 9.45 A Martial Kind of Men (291151) 10,00 Brookside (58847) 10,30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole (846557) 11.05 The Girlie Show (648002) 11.55 T.F.I. Friday (642118) 1.00am Beavis and Butt-head (1538478) 1.36 Film: The Song of Bernadette (20004720)

CHANNEY TO PER 6.35em Think Tank (r) (Teleled) (s)

7.00 The Big Breaklast (57793)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (37354) 9.30 Schools, Eureka! (5127539) 9.45 Stop O Schools, Eurekal (5127539) 9.45 Stop Look Listen (4672444) 10.00 Fourways Farm (3284880) 10.10 Eurokids (8555557) 10.25 Technology (8543712) 10.40 Oh Limits (2195373) 11.08 Backracks (7192375) 11.20 Slage One (7113828) 11.35 Schools (7650151) 11.40 How We Used to Live (2723151)

12.00 Gardens Without Borders (r) (Teleted) (s) (57118) 12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (43606) 1.30 Camberwick Green followed by The Herbs (r) (77460) 2.00 Potato Hunter (36694248)

2.10 FILM: I Accusel (1957, b/w) starring and directed by José Ferrer Dramatisation of the infamous Dreylus case in which a French army officer in the late 18th century was unjustly convicted of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island. (144335)

4.00 Beckdate (Teletext) (s) (593) 4.30 Countdown (267) 5.00 Cutting Edge (r) (Teletext) (7170)



Shock-haired Chris Evens (6.00pm)

6.00 T.F.I. Friday. Live show with Chris Evans (s) (53880) 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (769151) 7.55 Book Choice Cosmo (andesma

reviews Temble Honesty by Ann Douglas. (Teletext) (s) (447642) 5,00 Gardenii Without Bordeni, Alan Mason and Alan Gray explore the ancient city of

Cordoba (Teletaxi) (a) (4847) 8.30 Brookeide Eddle disturbs Sarah.

(Teletext) (s) (3354) 9,00 Cybili. Cybili Shepherd and her best friend, Maryson exact revenge on the latter's tormer husband by going on a spending spree (Teletext) (s) (6793)

9.30 Rising Demp. Leonard Rossher sters as the lecherous landlord Rigsby (Teletext) (65625)

10.00 Researche. Dan turns into the spirit of Elvis during a Hallows'en seance (Teletext) (s) (58847) 10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole: The

Family. Jo Brand on children and strict parents (Teletext) (s) (846557) 11.05 The Girlie Show. Candid talk with Sara Cox, Clare Gorham and Rachel Williams. The guests include Patsy Kensit (s)

11.55 T.F.J. Friday See 6pm (r) (s) (642116) 1,00am Beavis and Butt-Head. The duo

review music videos (82584) 1.30 FiLM: The Song of Bernadetta (1943, b/w). Jennifer Jones, in an Oscar-winning role, as the French peasant girl Bernadette Soubrous, whose visions of the Virgin Mary led to the founding of the shrine of Lourdes, Directed by Henry King (Teletext) (28001132). Ends at 4.15

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE

SKY ONE

7.00mm Boiled Egg and Soldiers [16644]
8.00 Power Rangers (74809) 8.30 Press
Your Luck (3414422) 8.50 Love Connection
(516049) 9.20 Court TV (4334625) 9.50
Oprah Wahlery (4022731) 10.40 Jacopandy
(1782083) 11.10 Safty Jacop Raphael
(6477)99) 12.00 Beactly (17002) 1.00pm
The Westona (33422) 2.00 Genetics (71809)
3.00 Court TV (3996) 3.30 Oprah Wahley
(5543373) 4.15 Undam (2215606) 5.00 Star
Treit The Next Generation (4248) 8.40 The
Simpsons (1667) 6.30 Jacopandy (5947)
7.00 UAPD (5977) 7.30 M*A*S*H (4731)
8.00 Just Kistong (4625) 8.30 Coppers
(5160) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (43441)
19.00 Star Treit. The Next Generation
(53628) 11.06 Las and Order (97355)
12.00 Lind Store with Dend Letterman
(2906671) 12.485mm The Undouchables (2905671) 12.45mm The Untouchables (5385749) 1.30 Sats (81478) 2.00-5.00 Hz Max Long Play (5905756

SKY NEWS

Newson Te hour 6,000 (1970-189) 2.30 Century (9703) 10.30 ASC Nightime (84286) 1.30pm (25 News Tris Montang (95880) 1.30 The Lords (1753) 5.30 Live at Five (5118) 5.30 Tringin with Adam Soution (3489) 7.30 Stockine (2373) 8.30 The Emerchanchi Show (4408) 11.30 The Emerchanchi Show (4408) 11.30 CBS Evening News (6760) 12.30 with Adam Bouldon Replay 1.30 Tenglit with Adam Bouldon Replay (72720) 2.30 Worldwide Report (5658) 3.3° [Inc Lords (47010) 4.30 CBS Evening News (53107) 5.30-8.00 ABC World News Fonglit

6.00eta Angels with Dirty Faces (1936) (58170) 8.00 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1984) (35489) 10.00 Death on the tille (1979) (53622607) 12.20pm Another Sinterest (1993) (500165) 2.15 The Ranger, the Cook and a Hole in the The Ranger, the Cook and a Hole in the Sky (1996) 780625; 3.45 L'accompagna-tice (1992) 780625; 5.40 Death on the 1992 (1992) 72255733; 8.00 Another Mae (1972) 77225733; 8.00 Another 1990 (1972) 77200; 10.00 Garmen

(1994) (873847) 11.35 Death Ring (1991) (80888) 1.10am Senoy and Joon (1993) (871229) 2.45 Kadalcha — the Death Shore Tipest) (59884) 4.15-5.45 The Ranger, the Cook and a Hole in the Sty. Ranger, the Cool (1995) (811774) SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Hostage Towar (1880) (\$2122335) 5.65 Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) (4943915) 8.00 Ctr. Man Filtr (1968) (34731) 10.00 Membro Man (1975) (2085625) 12.10am Rain Man (1988) (62265300) 2.25-4.15 A King Ia THE MOVIE CHANNEL

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00mm Jens The Movie (1986) (66712)
8.00 Connecticut Yamkee (26731) 10.00
The Bocomeer (1955) (22035118)
12.15pm. Cagney and Lacey: Together Again (1984) (5428) 2.00 Jenticho Fewer (1983) (3542) 4.00 Connecticut Yamkee (2462) 5.00 Cagney and Lacey: Together Again (1994) (10573) 7-30 UK Togo Ten (7441) 8.00 Telewer: Teldords (1994) (5073) 10.00 The Royal College of Art Short Fibre Showcese (16170) 1.25on The Thing Called Lore (1983) (148403) 3.35-6.00 Water (1985)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL Bity Movies Gold from 10pm to 4sm.
8.00em Untorels Tree (82957809) 6,30
Fraggie Reck (#1863868) 7.00 Winnie Tree
Pooh (24026278) 7.30 Ducktales
(98076576) 8.00 Chip in Dale (15238526)
8.30 Adventures in Wonderland (15289866)
Ann West Therror Presents (82966657) 9.00 Wat Charley Presents (6296657) 10.00 Unitrella Trop (41854935) 10.20 Fraggie Rock (1525/460), 11,00 Muppet Bebes (88465422) 11,30 Poch Corner (88467161) 12,00 Cusck Altsck (15282712) 12,30 Dumbo's Circus (40182538) 1,00 pm Adventures in Wonderland (254767/97 1-25 FILM: The Magic Succe (91142118) 3.00 More Discoaum (67294576) 3.30 Winnie the Pool (36469628) 4.00 Charick Attack (58469535) 4.30 Duclates (66477847) 3.00 Cyberster (52422946) 6.30 Stock with Me, Rid (41407354) 7.30 Eyeivitress (68462848) 9.00 FILM: Homeward Bound (841727951) 9.30-10.00 Zorro (40195002)

EUROSPORT 7.30mm Snowboarding (39805) 8.00 Foot-ball (86426) 9.30 Live Beathon (68793) 11.00 Live Sid Jumping (80809) 12.30 pm Eurosid (74149) 1.00 Eurokut (41170) 1.30 Free Climbing (77278) 2.30 Adventure (1422) 3.00 Raily Raid (81373) 4.00 Imanational Motorsports Report (40880) 5.00 Bathlion (8460) 6.00 Live Athletics (65847) 7.30 Tennis (55034) 9.00 Body Subting (74335) 10.00 Pro Wrestling (77422) 11.00 Formula 1 (58009) 11.30-12.30em.Car Racing (38977) SKY SPORTS

7,00am Spots Centre (57731) 7.30 Racing 7,00 mm sporg Scharre (p. 7.90 mm) 7.30 mm (p. 7.90 mm) 7.30 mm (p. 7.90 mm) 7.30 mm (p. 7.90 mm) 9.00 Tight Lines (48170) 10.00 The Rugby Caub (2822) 11.00 Neibusters (9997) 1.00 pm Parks Cap Ferniss, Live (9216248) 6.00 Sports Centre (61712) 7.00 mm (p. 7.90 mm) 2.55 Epulis Centre (761489) 9.30 Us Athleties (65739) 10.30 Sports Centre (2586) 11.50-2.00 mm

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00mm World Wrestling Federation Rew (8958373) 8.00 Davis Cup Tannis (2738354) 11.00 Inside the Senior PGe Tour (2284847) 11.30 The Coca-Cola Cacket (4223294) 12.30-1.00pm Powerboot Worl THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

ntertainment 6.15 Colin Dye/Wake Up Europe 6,45-7.00 Music SKY SOAP 7.00em Guiding Light. (5395295) 7.55 As the World Turins (5537139) 8.50 Psyton Place (2983373) 8.20 Days of Our Lives (5291880) 10.10-11.00 Another: World (5553002)

4.00mm Living World 5.00 Kenneth Cope-land 5.30 Kirtz TV 5.45 General Christian

SKY TRAVEL 11,00em Globetrotter [2298538] 11,30 Amencan Vacesion (5835809) 12,30pm Frugal Gournet Cooles Isalism (2774147) 1,00 Arcand the Vand ... in 30 Menures (3177731) 1,30-Things for Kids to Do in Fruncia (3124658) 2,00 E Report (5820809) 2,30 Grusing the Globe (1489915) 3,00 Gestaway (6932944) 3,30-4,00 Kids Down Linder (1484801)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War. Tarks (2283118)



James Cagney explains to S.Z. Sakali (Sky Movies Gold, 5.55pm)

TCC

N.00 Myseries of the Blob (6825909) 8.00. 7.00 Biography Oskar Schmoler (1124408) THE SCHOT CHANNEL 1.00mm Swamp Thing (1684519) 1.30 Ray Bradbury Theatre (\$231555) 2.00-4.00 FLM: The Hearse (6012045) TLC

9.00em The Joy of Parnting (1973731) 9.30 Gardeners' Diary (4341441) 10.00 Two's Countly (8223354) 10.30 Our House (1979915) 11.00 The Parised House (5519063) 11.30 Russing Repairs (5510712) 12.00 Julia Chid (1980567) 12.30pm The Frugal Gournet (4852557) 1.20 Yan Can Cook (3380842) 1.30 Local Heroes (4351828) 2.00 Dogs with Dunber (1724538) 2.30 Secret Gunders (1769373) 3.00 Two's Country (1736373) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (1771118) UK GOLD

7.00ms Angels (6535719) 7.30 Neighbours (1485018) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (1969589) 8.30 EastEnders (1968909) 9.00 The Bill (1982489) 9.30 The Sulfivans (4350199) 10.00 Begerat (6560480) 11.00 Juliul Braro (5180624) 12.00 Sons and Oaughters (1962825) 12.30pm Neighbours

The Bill (4353286) 2.00 The Sulfivens (11822828) 2.25 Are You Being Served? (1182822) 2.25 APE 101 Berry Server (2612286) 2.00 Angels (1738731) 3.30 Eldorado (1740248) 4.00 Cesucity (45919151) 5.05 Lany Grayson's Generation Genre (63926199) 8.15 Kenny's Conic Cuts (478946) 8.25 EastEnders (7521335) 7.00 Bidorado (1720712) 7.30 And Mather Helm Eng. 11720712 8.00 The Jest of Text 7,00 Scoraco (1720/12) 7,30 And Matter Malace Five (178998) 8,00 The Best of Top of the Pope (6385267) 9,00 Rumpole of the Bailey (6389731) 10,00 The Bill (4126287) 10,35 KYTV (1364373) 11,10 PLM: Escaptom New York (712818) 1,25aco The Hound of the Baskervites (4767519) 1,35 Cambri (8695818) 2,20-3,30 Shooping

6.00am Swan's Crossing (73980) 5.30 Pugwal (91712) 7.00 Ready or Not (30198) 7.30 California Droams (19606) 8.00 Sweet Valley High (29101) 8.90 Tiny TCC (24692064) 12.35pm Tiny TCC (45542731) 2.30 Happily Ever After (3192) 3.00 Sonic (3170) 3.30 The New Pink Parither Show (2557) 4.00 California Dreams (1054) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (7248)

NICKELODEON 6.00am Herry's Cat (9682644) 6.15 Blue

(666557) 8.45 Toucan Tex (8501996) 7.00 Batini, (8582809) 7.05 Crimmy (4488538) Posto, 's Modern Life (49242) 9,00 Avenand 12.00 Magic School Bus (43064) 12.30pm Grimmy (71335) 1.00 Global Guts (54644) 1.30 Visionailes (70606) 2.00 Children's HSU Visionanias (ADDU) 2009 Chickers 8BC (15267) 3.00 The Wed Side Show (7354) 3.30 Mighry Max (9441) 4.00 Fish and Chips and Jo Raz (5248) 4.30 Rugnass and Doug (7467) 5.00 Sister Safer (8189) 5.90 Chickers III (3743) 6.00 Res and Res and Res and Res and Res and Res and Res and Res DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1750625) 4.30 Charlie Bravo (1756808) 5.00 Classic Wheels (1727625) 6.00 Terra X (1760002) 6.30 Beyond 2000 (9272151) 7.30 Arthur C Clarke's World of Strenge Powers (1757538) 8.00 Jurassica 2 (6383809) 9.00 Wings (6396373) 10,00 Classic Wheels (6399460) 11,00 Wars in Peace (5501064) BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Stranger from Venus (7776002) 1,30pp; Honey West (4348354) 2.00 The Sant (8328609) 3.00 The Buccaneers (1730199) 3.30 William Tell (178644) 4.00 FILM The Blood of Fu Menchy (1734915) 6.00 Danger Man (1764828) 6.30 The Gossip Show (9276977) 7.30 The Green Homet (1744064) 8.00 The Saint (6370335)

9.00 UFO (6360199) 10.00-12.00 FiLM The Unnemcable Returns (6517625) PARAMOUNT 7.00pm Benson (9335) 7.30 Family Ties (5469) 8.00 Entertainment Tonight (8083) 8.30 Wings (7118) 9.00 Scap (59538) 9.30 Laverne and Switey (81199) 10.00 Enter-Leverne and Shirley (81199) 10,000 Enter-tairment Tomphit (44783) 10,30 Home Court (53441) 11,00 Pursuit of Happiness (54683) 11,30 Bob (15462) 12,00 Working Stifts (29478) 12,30em The Odd Couple (45000) 1,00 Wings (81958) 1,30 Scap (25836) 2,00 Leverne and Shirley (29749) 2,30 Entertairment Tomphit (31594) 3,00 Home Court (82294) 3,30-4,00 Pursuit of Happiness (22938)

(7964083) 8.00 Esther (5791539) 8.30 Embrodery (8808080) 9.00 Machus Jaffrey's Indian Cookery (3475035) 9.35 Kate and Aline (2716151) 10.05 The Jerry Kate and Alte (2716151) 10.05 The Jerry Springer Show (8107066) 11.00 The Young and the Resides (8294335) 11.55 Food and Drink (777062) 12.30pcm Dangerous Worsen (334651) 1.25 Crosswits (671002) 2.00 Agony Hour (8103903) 3.00 Live gi There (7443538) 4.00 Intainston UK (9010793) 4.30 Crosswits (8065973) 5.05 Lings (3175903) 5.30 Ludey Ladders (9006577) 6.00 Revitched (920170) 6.30 Co. bbs. Rept. etc. 1846 (5108015) 7.85 (900)5571 8.00 Bewitched (9020)1701 9.30 On the Bod with Paula (61099)15 7.05 Tastes of Wales (6316712) 7.40 The Johan's Widd (9624712) 8.05 The Young and the Festigers (1653151) 9.00 FILM Kate's Secret (21119286) 10.50 Entertainment (561422) 10.55 Sylvania Waters (3743151) 11.30-12.00 Sec. Lile (3163408)

5.00pm Black Beauty (5915) 5.30 Thrim (643977) 5.55 Bahman (219396) 6.30 Catchophrase (2793) 7.00 Thread Pursus (5151) 7.30 Jeiss and the kid (83847) 8.30 Only When I Laugh (6426) 8.00 Ruth Rendert A Seeping Life (23825) 10.00 Tressure Hunt (2672) 11.00 Cats Eyes (49917) 12.00 Jeiss and the kid (8224) 1.00am Bistman (47584) 1.30 Rhoda (51652) 2.00 Big Brother Jeise (65565) 2.30 African Sees (77300) 9.00 Rhoda (27720) 3.30 Big Brother Jaice (68652) 4.00 Ahroan Sizes (52045) 4.30-5.00 Adventures of Black Beauty (35749)

MTV 6.30am The Grand (93170) 7.00 3 from 1 6.30arts The Grand (53170) 7.00 3 from 1 (9420505) 7.15 Wildside (5750557) 8.00 Videos (963325) 11.00 Soul (20712) 12.00 Greatest Hits (21354) 1.00pm Music Non-Stop (72164880) 2.45 3 from 1 (2621644) 8.00 Contrastic (7498246) 8.15 Hanging Out (4903460) 4.00 News (2225625) 4.15 Hanging Out (2275248) 4.30 Dei (9506) 5.00 Hanging Out (7373) 8.30 Boom! (2266) 6.00 Hanging Out (5129) 6.30 Road Rules (4151) 7.00 Greatest Hits (36199) 8.00 Ultimate Collection (44890) 9.30 Boomle Rich Burl-Hand (20057) 9.00 News (14888) 10.15 Chemistic (143235) 10.3u Oddies (91625) 11.00 Pertyzone (97644)

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Club (8933151) 9.00 Big Country (8953915) 10,00 Vinyl Years (8956002) 11.00 Around 10,00 Vinyl Years (8956002) 11,00 Around (3163638) 12,00 The Nightity (9313213) **CMT EUROPE** Country trausic from 6em to 7pm of

Setelitie, including 5pm, Saturds Dance Ranch 6.00-7.00 Big Ticket

4.00 Manasi (15405147) 4.30 Yaadon Ke Pang (23500511) **8.00** Zee Zone (34158644) 5.30 Hip Hip Hurray (81318557) 6.30 Zee and U (14055606) 7.00 BBCD CARTOON NETWORK/THT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, their THT films as below 7.00pm The Gazebo (1959) (40226016) 9.00 Consgher (1991) (2976422) 11.00 Morder at the Gallop (1963) (72767644) 12.30am Laddies Who Do (1964) 414886511 2.00 Investion Ouartist (1961) (43450213) 3.35-5.00 Down Among the Z. Mar. 19870, 0544897) Mon (1952) (95448497)

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Organisers suggest UN intervention in World Cup crisis

Cork joins England injury list

FIVE days before their opening World Cup match, England's cricketers find their fitness concerns assuming worrying proportions. Donu-nic Cork, their principal strike bowler, yesterday left the field after sending down only 13 balls during England's second warm-up match at Aitcheson College, in which they beat the local Lahore side by six wick-

Cork is experiencing pain in the tendon area below his right knee, brought on, basically, by wear and tear. The best cure, as Cork himself knows from similar trouble with his left knee two years ago, is physiotherapy and rest. would put him out of action

England's first match is against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, their second against United Arab Emirates in Peshawar on Sunday week. While they could afford to be without Cork for



the modest challenge of the

We will give Dominic three days' rest," Raymond Illingworth, the England manager. said yesterday. "We think the knee should settle down during that period. I certainly

in the past nine months, Cork has been England's leadng bowler, and, in South Africa recently, he bowled twice as many overs in international matches as any of his ther soreness. If England are to enjoy a successful World Cup. Cork must play a central role because their bowling resources are thin.

Robin Smith, who sustained a groin strain completing a catch during his side's first warm-up game, on Wednesday, was yesterday ruled out of England's first two matches and a decision as to whether he stays with the party will be made at the weekend.

The signs for Smith were not hopeful yesterday. The injury is likely to take at least a week to mend, hopefully ten days at the worst," Wayne know more in a day or two."

The England management whether another batsman must be chosen from the 18 names that England submit ted to the organisers last call-up for Mark Ramprakash - or if others could be considered. If that were the case. Nasser-Hussain would

enter the reckoning. Earlier this week, it was disclosed that Darren Gough day and took one wicket as England restricted their opponents to 166 for nine from 50

overs on a slow pitch. Their most effective bowlers, though, were Richard Illingworth and Neil Smith, the spinners, who took three for 24 and two for 29

England's progress was also slow, the match-winning partnership of 76 between Russell and Fairbrother occupying 23 overs.

The ever-reliable Russell, who scored 60 the day before, another middle-order collapse 12 runs. Hick was out for eight and Thorpe for four. Earlier, Atherton, who top-scored with 41, and Stewart put on 79 for the first wicket.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convenor of Pilcom, the committee. organising claimed yesterday that it had asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to request the United Nations to send an safe to stage matches there, after the suicide bombing in

Colombo. Australia and West Indies have risked forfeiting fixtures by refusing to play on the

The ICC's office in London had no knowledge of such a request yesterday, and David Richards, its chief executive, spent the day en route to Calcutta, where a meeting will he held tomorrow to discuss the crisis. Inderjit Singh Bindra, another member of



Cork limps from the field after playing only a brief part in the second warm-up match in Labore yesterday

organising committee, out little hope of a solution. "I am not aware of any compromise formula, it's too late for that," he said yesterday. "We will not shift matches out of Sri Lanka. The only choice before Australia

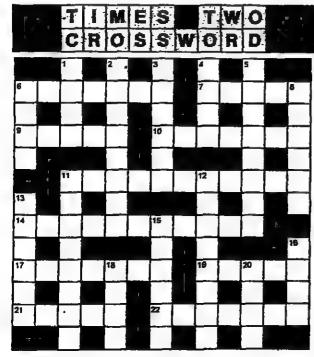
and West Indies is to fulfil their commitments.

Glenn Turner, the coach of New Zealand, who arrived in Bombay on Wednesday, spoke confidently yesterday of his side's prospects, in recent months, New Zealand have

played one-day series against india and Pakistan, losing the first narrowly and drawing the second, despite Turner

introducing new players.
"We could not have hoped for a better build-up," Turner said. "To be without two of our

most outstanding betsmen of the past few years. Martin Crowe and Mark Greatbatch, is a hig blow, but ours is a young side that can make up for their absence."



- 6 Holy Land sea: church porch (7)
- 7 Thorough mixture (5) 9 Place for assembly (5)
- 10 Set of victims' names (3.4) 11 Mercy stroke (4.2.5)
- 14 A vivid blue (11) ? 17 Amount due but unpaid (7)
- 19 Hammer (for calling to order) (5)
- 3 21 Approves; parasites (5) 22 A prehistoric period (4.3)
- 2 DOWN
 - 1 (Scots.) valley (4)

2 God be praised! (8)

- 3 Procedure, technique (6)
- 4 Be close against (4) 5 Tender, in frail health (8)
- 6 Deliver; perform (4)
- 8 Be indecisive (6) 11 On special offer (3-5)
- 12 Strange, unwelcome event
- 13 Familiar (with) (2.4)
- 15 Make rope descent (6) 16 Ventilation duct (4)
- 18 In addition (4)

20 Call meat (4) The solution to 699 will be published Wednesday, February 14

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umitrescu denied work permit

BY PETER BALL AND DAVID MADDOCK

THE Bosman decision may have opened the gates to footballers from countries within the European Community, but the Department of Employment is beginning to flex its muscles over other nationalities. Yesterday, it refused work permits to Marc Hottiger, the Switzerland international full back at Everton, and Ilie Dumitrescu. West Ham United's Romania international.

"We will fight this all the way," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said last night. "You are talking about two world class players here, and I'm not happy about it. I never expected a problem with a work permit, but we won? leave it at that."

Everton were equally unhappy. "We are very, very disappointed, and are now considering our options and response," Michael Dunford. the Everton secretary, said. "It is possible we will request further discussion with the department. Marc's career is now in limbo, and he knows, unless it is sorted out, he must leave the country in June." Hottiger and Dumitrescu

had been given permits when they first came to Great Britain to join Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, respectively. They have now fallen foul of the rule that requires them to play 75 per cent of their team's games, even though the Football Association and the Premier League are understood to have



approved their applications for a renewal. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), however, protective of home-grown talent, was less

Hottiger joined Everton three weeks ago for £700,000. He played 51 games for Newcastle last season, but fell foul of the three foreigners rule in the pre-Bosman days of this season, with Ginola, Albert. Gillespie and Smicek taking preference.

Even so, the department's itement that "he had only played in 66 per cent of Newcastle's games in the last 12 months, not the required 75 per cent", seems harsh. The department's position

over Dumitrescu, who has been out of favour at Tottenham since the departure of Osvaldo Ardiles as manager. is more comprehensible, but the implications are that an overseas player cannot afford a spell out of form or out of

"Dumitrescu has played for his country regularly, he has been outstanding in the World Cup," Redknapp said. "He

has not played enough games for Tottenham, but that is why players appear on the transfer list. Tottenham bought Ruel Fox because he wasn't getting a game at Newcastle; I sold Don Hutchison to Sheffield United because he wasn't in

Claudio Branco, the Brazil international full back, agreed an 18-month contract with Middlesbrough yesterday, but that deal, too, is subject to the player being granted a work permit. Branco has 83 caps to his credit but has appeared infrequently for his country in recent seasons. He would appear, though, to have the support of the PFA — a ignificant factor. Faustino Asprilla is the next

player with an appointment at the Department of Employ-ment. The Colombia international completed his £6.7 million move to Newcastle yesterday. There should be no doubts about that one - at least as long as he keeps a place in the team.

Palace appointment, page 36 FA Cop chaos, page 36

Catt presents England with dilemma

By DAVID HANDS RUGEY CORRESPONDENT

MIKE CATT has thrown a further twist into what has already been a tortuous rugby union season for England by telling Bath that he seeks to play full back. Ostensibly, that is good news for the English selectors, who yesterday announced a 35-strong training squad, but not if Catt spends the remainder of the

season playing second team rugby. Last year, he played two internationals at stand-off half, but it is as a full back that he first appeared on the international scene and Catt has decided that his future

lies in a No 15 shirt. Since Stuart Barnes retired, however, he has been playing stand-off for Bath, who have Jonathan Callard, another

preferred for the Pilkington Cup fifthround tie at Wakefield tomorrow. Catt takes his place in the second-team game

"The only way for me to contribute to the expansive game England want to play

Wales see virtue of youth _____

in the next World Cup is to get used to

playing that way at full back regularly for Bath," Catt said. "I am a better full back

than stand-off but I might be in the second team all season." If Callard, 30 and capped five times, has anything to do with it. he will be. "I've faced challenges before, but I've got to get

international, at full back and Callard is on with it," he said. "No one person is bigger than the club and none of us is indispensable. I wouldn't say this challenge was too daunting."

Three full backs are named in the England squad to train at Mariow on Tuesday, Tim Stimpson joining Callard and Catt; but, if Catt cannot oust his colleague over the next fortnight, England will have a hard decision to make when they name the XV to play Scotland at Murrayfield on March 2. However, irregular appearances in the Bath front row last season did not prevent John Mallen, the prop. carning a place in England's World Cup squad.

The training squad promotes three England A forwards — David Sims, Garath Archer and Richard Cockerill and also includes Tony Underwood.

Davis finds the cue to heaven after untimely break with past

what all the fuss is about. Why does Steve Davis, six times a world champion. feel that he is in "heaven" after finding success with a

 more than any 1978, but none in the past 13 months. The drought began the cue that had brought ocrowed from his father had proved a poor substitute, so Davis's euphoria after his vintage 6-0 victory using the new cue — over Ken Doherty in the Benson and Hedges Masters at

Weinbley earlier this week was understandable. The histories of billlards and snooker have repeatedly demonstrated that, while a cue alone cannot make a champion, the loss of a champion's old faithful will probably sink him.

In 1929, Willie Smith went to Australia to face the great Walter Lindrum at billiards. their man an edge, smashed Smith's cue. Years later, aged 90, Smith was asked how he got over it. "I never did." he said.

Stephen Hendry would never play a formight's match for a tea service, as Smith did during that tour, but he has suffered the same kind of loss. In 1990, during a tournament in Reading Hendry, who had captured the first of his five world titles six months earlier, walked into a hotel restaurant looking desperate. He had left his one unattended for a couple of minutes and was clinging to the hope that its subsequent disappearance was some sort of illjudged practical joke. It soon proved not to be so. For the next two days,

for his manager to offer a £10,000 reward. The exact circumstances surrounding the return of the cue, that has been the decisive instrument in the sport this decade, are still. mysterious, but the Rex Williams Powerglide model, that would have cost no more than £20 in any good sports shop, was discovered on a piece of waste ground. The usually undemonstra-

tive Scot hugged and kissed

Hendry was frantic enough

earlier, Cliff Thorburn, the another and been whitewashed 5-0:

Having a cue sabotaged or stolen is one thing, but Darren Morgan's original usefulness at the hands of his father, who smashed it argument. Later, Morgan Sr threw the replacement javetin-like out of the house. It landed, tip down at the bottom of the garden, no few months later, his son used it to win the 1987 world amateur championship.

cue's dimensions, it has to be at least 3ft long and "must conform to the accept ed shape and design". The



authorities felt it necessary to introduce any legislation only after the Alec Brown fountain pen incident in

Thurston's, the professional showcase of the game in Leicester Square, when, with the cue-ball marrooned in the middle of the pack of reds, he produced a pen-like cue of no more than five inches, complete with tip. The cue, made by his father, allowed a potentially tricky shot to be played with case, but the referee awarded a foul, ruling that the implement was outside the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

Davis will have no such problem when he faces Alan McManus at Wembley today. To the television viewer, his cae will look like any other, but to Davis, it will look like the only one in the

Leading article, page 17 Parrott surprise, page 36

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Chinese nuclear sale damages relations with US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

TENSIONS between China and the United States are escalating on several fronts. They took another unsettling turn yesterday with revela-tions that Peking has sold nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. That could lead to Washington imposing sanc-tions running to billions of dollars, but President Clinton may waive the penalties for the sake of American jobs and to avoid making links even more strained.

The nuclear proliferation issue comes on top of other flashpoints, including human rights abuses, China's sabrerattling over Taiwan and its continued piracy of American software, music and videos.

There is a strong chance that China could become an election issue for Mr Clinton. His campaign taunt four years ago that President Bush was coddling the "butchers" of Peking could be hurled back by Republican foes.

Mr Chriton is under pressure not to impose sanctions on China from Boeings Westinghouse and other big corporations whose orders from Peking account for thousands of jobs. But China has been identified by the CIA as selling specialised magnets needed to refine weapons-grade urani-um to Pakistan, Under American laws, Mr Clinton could retaliate by cutting off all US government loan guarantees amounting to nearly \$10 bil-lion (£6.5 billion) to American companies doing business

with China

To waive these sanctions, Mr Clinton would have to declare that the business deals were vital to American national interests. The decision poses a quandary for the President. To impose sanctions would worsen relations with China and upset American companies. Not to do so would upset Democrats who think that halting the spread of nuclear weapons comes before business interests. "Failure to impose sanctions. would make the world a more dangerous place, said Nancy Pelosi, a liberal Democrat and China specialist on the House intelligence committee.
In fact, business links be-

tween China and America have become so intertwined that both nations would suffer if global politics and confron-Last year the United States exported goods and services worth more than \$12 billion to - China, accounting for 200,000 American jobs, while Chinese exports approached \$40

This huge trade deficit is further stoked by China's refusal to honour an agreement reached a year ago to shut more than 30 factories churning out illegal copies of American CDs, videos and computer programmes. Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative,



Taiwanese soldiers practise hand-to-hand combat during military exercises in the east coast city of Hualien

has warned China that unless the piracy ceases he will impose 100 per cent duties on more than a billion dollars in Chinese exports.

other abuses.

In Washington this week, Li

Zhaoxing, the Chinese deputy

Foreign Minister, insisted that

the technology sales to Paki-

stan and elsewhere in the

Middle East were purely for

China appears unwilling to compromise in return for any accommodating American stance. Two years ago Mr Clinton agreed to separate

trade from human rights ispeaceful nuclear co-operation, sues, yet China continues its crack down on dissidents and a claim America rejects. He blamed Washington for the downturn in relations, citing

Taiwan as an example. Peking still lays claim to Taiwan as a renegade province and refuses to rule out force to retake it. China is agitated over Taiwan moves

towards democracy, with vot-ers electing a president for the first time next month.

US intelligence believes that China will stage military exercises near the island to intimidate its leaders. US officials warned China that any unprovoked attack would have grave consequences.

Peking issues weapons warning

FROM JAMES PRINGLE

CHINA said yesterday that the United States must stop selling advanced weapons to Taiwan if tensions between Peking and Taipei are to be eased, and it urged the Taiwanese authorities to abandon efforts to break out of diplo-

Shan Goulang, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, reiterated Peking's commitment to peaceful reunification with Taiwan, but underlined China's threat to invade Taiwan if the island was attacked or if Taipei abandoned its avowed goal of reunification and declared its independence.

"The United States must not sell large amounts of advanced weapons to Taiwan for tensions to be eliminated." Mr Shen said.

Reports have suggested that China is planning major military exercises near Taiwan. but President Clinton said yesterday he was confident that there would be no military conflict because too much was at stake.

Lawyer arrested in Bahrain crackdown

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

spreading throughout the Gulf and threatening the conservative rulers of the oil-rich states was yesterday strengthened by a fresh attempt to crack down in the troubled island of Bahrain.

The Government has arrested a prominent lawyer and writer on the ground of inciting sabotage and arson, a and contacts with terrorist move likely to inflame unrest in the small Gulf island. al-Shamlan was arrested by security forces. who said that several suspects had disclosed under question-. ing that he had taken part in recent sabotage attacks and hint radio propaganda cam-arson. He is the first promi- paign against Saudi Arabia, nent Sunni Muslim to be arrested since unrest at the. end of 1994, largely inspired in the region. There is little by Shia calls for an end to evidence that Tehran has discrimination against the Shia majority and a restora- campaign of subversion, aljon of the 1975 co

The crackdown comes as Bahrain's neighbours are growing increasingly nervous the demonstrations. Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent of Saudi Arabia, said in one of his first foreign policy announcements that the riots on the island were unacceptable and the instigators should be dealt with. The six-member Gulf Co-

operation Council, which groups Saudi Arabia and conservative states in the

THE spectre of Islamic unrest Gulf, has blamed Iran for the unrest and accused it of stirring up anti-government

> Yesterday Bahrain, which has deported three dissident Muslim clergy it accused of pro-Iranian sedition, said Tehran had incited the pro-tests. The security officials said Mr Shamlan had links organisations abroad, and said that they would, when questioning ended, provide full evidence supported by

Iran has conducted a virupaign against Saudi Arabia, which now sees Iran as the greatest threat to its security been actively conducting a from Bahrain last

There is mounting evidence that conservative Gulf rulers are taking fright at moves for more democracy and are putting pressure on neighbouring countries to clamp down on press and persons freedoms. Kuwaiti officials say they have been warned not to move any further in extending democratic rights example this set.

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how much you spend every week on necessities such as food, clothes, gas. and electricity, and you'll find it's nowhere near enough.

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Out For £5 offer, starting on Monday, February 12, it is also easily affordable. To apply, cut out the vouchers which are appearing daily. If you missed the guide in Monday's paper, you can order one by sending two first class stamps to:
The Times Eat Out For £S offer, PO Box 481, London £1 98D. Additions to our guide: Raffles Restaurant, Aldbourne, Nr Marlborough, Wilts, two-course lunch - T, W, Th, F, Tel: 01672 540700: Stratford Lodge, Park Lane, Salisbury, Wilts, two courses, butch - T, W, Th, F, dinner - T, W, Tel: 01722 325177; The Epicurean, The Promenade, Cheltenham, Glos. main course from bistro menu only, lunch M, T, W, Th, F, S, Tel: 01242 222466; Yum Yum Thai Restaurant, High St. Loughborough, Leics, two-course lunch M. T. W. Th, F. Tek 01509 260030; Luigi's Restaurant, Gipsy Hill, London SE19, main course lunch M. T. W. Th. F. S. Sun, dinner - M. T. W. Th, Sun, Tel: 0181-670 1843.



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Kohl calls for more sacrifices as jobless top four million

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, was attacked in parliament yesterday after the announcement that the number of unemployed had jumped well over the psychologically important level of four million and was worse than at any time since 1948.

The leap to 4.16 million was blamed partly on unusually cold weather, but the trend was unmistakable it was the sixth monthly increase in a action plan, worked out with the tentative agreement of the unions, the employment situation is unlikely to improve much this year.

This week Grundig, once a household name in electronics, announced the cutting of another 3,000 jobs, and Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, unveiled plans to reduce 7,000 public-sector jobs, including a 20 per cent cut in the number of German spies. The Chancellor told parlia-

ment that his plans to cut taxes and stimulate growth would eventually make an impact on unemployment levels, but that everybody had to be prepared to make sacrifices and contribute to reforms. He let out some of his old animosity for Baroness Thatcher as he defended his cuts in social spending. He was not, he said, about to destroy the welfare state, "We never thought the example of Thatcher was something suitBLEAK PROSPECT

☐ Mechanical engineering: Production is up 7 per cent. but the number of jobs dropped by 10,000 in the

past year.

Building: 5,500 bankruptcies were reported last year and more than 6,000 are expected this year. At least 90,000 jobs are expected to go this year.

Car industry: It is estimated that 100,000 jobs will

be lost in manufacturing and the spare parts sector between now and 2000. ☐ Electronics: the industry

lost 230,000 jobs between Z1990 and last year. More are expected to go this year.

Retail trade: Between 30,000 and 40,000 jobs are to be cut this year. In the previous two years 90,000 iobs were lost.

We have completely different ideas of social obligations."

The unemployment figures were anticipated by the markets and the politicians, but they did nothing to dull the anger of debate or reduce the sense of hopelessness about the economic slowdown.

Last week the Chancellor brought together unions, employers and the Government to devise a package of incentives for businessmen, to map out welfare cuts and employ-

Reprimand for Bonn

Bonn: A European Commissioner yesterday sharply criticised Bonn for its laggardly implementation of European laws (Roger Boyes writes).

The reprimand by Marlo Monti, the Commissioner responsible for the internal market, came as three German federal states looked set to face the European Court of Justice for banning the import of British beef.

Addressing an audience at Bonn University, he struck a naw nerve of the Government. It is certainly not compatible with Germany's leading role in the process of European

THE STADES THES

integration to lag behind in this way." he said. According to statistics, Ger-

many has only applied 89 per cent of the measures needed to complete the European Union's single market; well behind most members. "What we need is a strong signal from Germany . . . and giving an example to other member states," Signor Monti said.

He mentioned Bonn's failure to implement laws on free competition in public procurement contracts. There against Bonn last year, the most against any EU state.

ment-creation measures in anticipation of the record unemployment level. Neither the Social Democrats, nor the leaders of the 16 federal state governments, nor the Bundesbank were invited to the round table and all are unhappy.

Bernhard Jagoda, head of the Federal Labour Office, said the unemployment rate had risen to 10.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in December. The increase was more steep in eastern Germany — a 42,000 jump to 1.17 million -- probably because of the large number of construction workers being laid off. In western Germany, where the worst affected areas were the Ruhr, Lower Saxony and Bremen, unemployment has risen to

Herr Kohl has promised to create two million new jobs by 2000, but there is no sign that employers have been encouraged by his rather vague

First, there is a suspicion the Chancellor merely wants to ensure that the Social Democrats do not monopolise the employment issue. There are three regional elections next month, providing an impor-tant indicator to the Chancellor's future. Second, many employers believe that the unions are arguing on the basis of topsy-turvy economics. Union negotiators say that, since high labour costs are causing unemployment, then lower real wages should

Many employers claim it will be difficult to keep employment levels, even at their present level. David Herman, chairman of Opel, speaks for many employers when he says that unions will have to accept not only the principle of wage restraint but a lower standard of living across the board. There is a basic resistance to

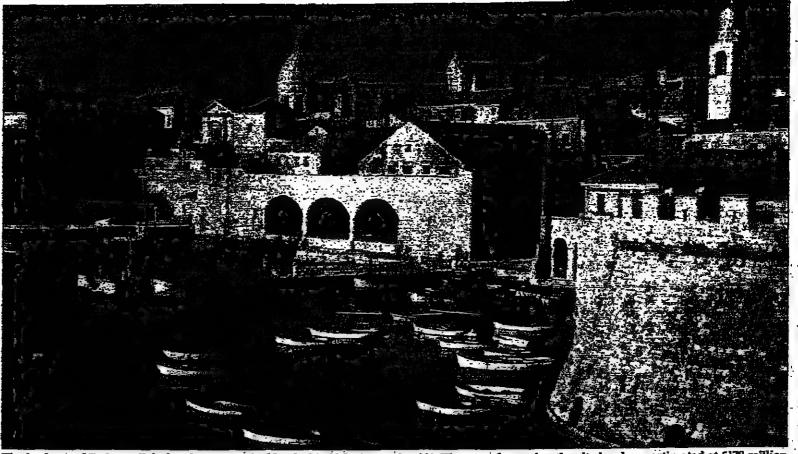
translate into new jobs.

big cuts in welfare spending. Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrats' parliamentary leader, last night accused the Chancellor of deserting his responsibility to generate eco-"intimately links it to social

THE SUNDAY TIMES

WHY MAKING BABIES

IS SO DIFFICULT



The harbour of Dubrovnik before it was attacked by the Yugoslav Army in 1991. The cost of restoring the city has been estimated at £178 million

Prince inspects restoration of battered Dubrovnik

FROM ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales, champion of European architecture, yesterday inspecied restoration work on one of the innocent victims of the Balkans war, the ancient walled city of Dubrovnik. Wrapped in a heavy overcoat, the

Prince saw how the so-called pearl of the Adriatic is slowly being pieced together again after fierce bombardment by the Yugoslav Army in 1991-92. The city, which welcomed 850,000 visitors in the year before the conflict, hopes that its shattered tourist business will soon be restored. The Prince is the first member of the Royal Family to make an official visit to Croatia since it was recognised as an independent state by the European Union in January 1992. He was welcomed at the city's recently reopened airport by Zlatko Matesa, the Prime Minister.

Dubrovnik was first attacked, from the sea and from the mountains, by 15,000 soldiers of the Yugoslav Army, supported by Serbian and Montenegrin troops in September 1991. The worst day was in December of that year, when more than 1,000 shells fell on the city within 24 hours. Throughout the bombardment, it received more than 2,200 direct artillery hits.

The massive 15th-century city walls withstood the onslaught well, despite taking 147 hits, but 563 buildings were shelled within the city walls, 438 roofs were damaged, delicate stone carving was shartered by shrapnel, and nine buildings were destroyed. As the shells were falling, the Prince was addressing a meeting of the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels; appealing to the world not to stand idly by.

We have no claim to regard ourselves as in any way more civilised in this day and age if we have to witness the dismemberment of a unique city like Dubrovnik," he said at

Yesterday Nikola Obuljen, the Mayor, told the Prince that the cost of restoration had been estimated at \$274 million (£178 million) and the work would take 25 years. About \$30 million has so far been spent, mainly on emergency roof repairs. Among the casualties, which the Prince inspected, were a 15th-century fountain still displaying damage, the Franciscan monastery which took 37 hits, and the small baroque Festival Palace.

The Prince later flew to Split to meet British Army back-up units of the UN Implementation Force stationed at the Divulje barracks: He is due to meet other British units in Sarajevo today.

Atrocity' crusade endangers Bosnia deal

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN BARAJINO

THE Bosnian peace process is in jeopardy due to the moral crusading of the war crimes tribunal and a potential breakdown of the Muslim-Croat Federation that is a cornerstone of the Dayton agree-ment, Nato officials said

vesterday. The military aspects of the Nato-enforced peace in Bosnia have taken hold with all sides withdrawing their forces from designated zones before scheduled deadlines. However, pol-

Evidence suggests

that the human race

is becoming infertile.

The Sunday Times

This weekend

investigates a worrying global

phenomenon as more and more

couples resort to

costly scientific

treatments to

have children

Magazine

itical issues on two fronts have endangered the process.

The thorniest issue is the prosecution of war criminals. International mediators have consistently Insisted that bringing suspected war criminals to justice is essential to the peace process. But Nato officials, who have to walk a fine line between two former warring factions and who must negotiate with the Serbs, say hunting war criminals is harmful to the peace process.

It is making things very difficult. Without diminishing the importance of the work of

the war crimes tribunal, their moral crusade is premature because it is very damaging to the peace process," a Nato official said.

In a move that has outraged the Bosnian Serb leadership, Bosnian government police arrested II Bosnian Sertes and accused them of war crimes. The Serbs allegedly strayed government territory. General Ratko Miadic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, has suspended contacts with the Implementation Force until the men are were deployed in Mostar to restrain a conflict between Muslims and Croats. Bosman Croats occupied the European Union office on Wednesday. smashing windows in protest against plans to unity the

At the same time Nato

armoured personnel carriers

The flare-up threatens to undermine the coalition of Muslims and Croats brokered in 1994. The union is essential to preserving Bosnia as a

Leading article, page 17

Split widens in Spanish ranks over plan for single currency

voice with a scatting attack by Miguel Boyer, the former Socialist Finance Minister, who helped shape the singlecurrency project with Jacques Delors, the last European

Commission President. Senor Boyer, who was one of the committee of "wise men" who drafted plans for economic and monetary union (EMU) in the late 1980s. denounced what he called the "idol of Maastricht" as a ploy, with potentially devastating consequences, which would mainly benefit Germany and "Never has so much damage been done to so many by so few fanatics." he said. Although Señor Boyer left office in 1986 and is now financial director of a big construction firm, his European antecedents gave weight to his anti-EMU outburst,

in Madrid. His attack follows signs of wavering commit-ment to EMU in the Socialist Party of Felipe González, the Prime Minister, and business worries that Spain's weak economy may doom it to a second-class existence outside

the EMU bloc. Last month Carlos Westendorp, the Foreign Minister, spoke of a crisis of confidence in Europe and aired the possibility of a delay in the planned January 1999 launch. But Señor Gonzfalez and José-Maria Aznar, leader of the opposition Popular Par-ty, are proclaiming strong commitment to EMU before next month's elections.

In Brussels and Bonn, the cracks appearing in Spain's hitherto seamless pro-European consensus are put down to fears of exclusion from the initial intake of EMU mem-bers in 1998. Spain now meets

aithough its debt ratio is close to the 60 per cent of gross domestic product prescribed in the Maastricht treaty. Its budget deficit, however, is still over double the 3 percent of GDP required next year for

entry.
Senor Boyer said "monetary union is more of a political than an economic objective. The very short calendar (to introduce the euro) could re-sult in being so harmful that, by adhering to it, the very process of European union could be damaged."

Summing up, he said: "I do not share the dream of many technocrats and certain elite politicians of maintaining to the death a fiction about dates and conditions of convergence, hoping to catch nations by surprise with economic and monetary union, the signifi-cance and costs of which they

Land of machismo gets tough on rape

A NEW law redefining rape

and introducing tougher penalties, for sex offences was greeted yesterday by Italian trenched male attitudes towards women are changing.
After 16 years of fruitless debate on sex crime legislathrough a Bill overturning a Mussolini-era law defining rape as "a crime against public morality". The Bill, which has yet to pass through the Senate, describes acts of sexual violence as crimes against the person, a much more serious charge. It also guarantees legal aid for rape victims and raises the minimum sentence for convicted rapists from three years to five. The maximum sentence remains ten years.

Controversially, the new law legalises sex between consenting minors aged between 13 and 16. An earlier version had proposed legalising sex from 12 years. Catholics are still troubled by the move, and one right-wing MP and law-yer, Raffaele della Valle, of Forza Italia, denounced the provision as a "teenage free love charter".

the

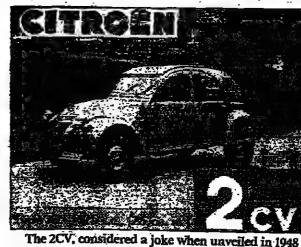
Alessandra Mussolini, the grand-daughter of the Duce and a prominent member of the "post-Fascist" Allianza Nazionale, said the new law on rape was a victory for women. Maria Rita Parsi, a 💍 leading feminist and psycholo-gist, said simply: "Italy has

French mourn end of 2CV love affair

SHE was hardly a thing of beauty. She was unstable. She was slow. She was cheap. But, like all the best love stories, France did not know quite how much it loved the Criroen 2CV until she was gone.

Exactly five years after the last of these peculiar vehicles trundled off the factory floor and into myth, Jacques Wolgensinger, the former press officer at Citroen, has written a book looking back over a strange love affair between a country and a car. Entitled The 2CV: We Were So In Love, M Wolgensinger's is the work of a man besotted

and in mourning. The 2CV's designers, he recalls, had intended to create a car that could go the same speed as a horse, or at most twice as fast, that would be economical, reliable and unglamorous, but the vehicle was widely regarded as a joke when it was first unveiled. Thousands queued up to giggle at it. Pierre Boulanger, the in-ventor, had decreed that the



car should have a bouncy suspension that would enable it to carry eggs across rough them, while being mechanically simple enough for a peasant to mend.

A grey, bulbous object, with a single headlight sticking out on a stalk and a wafer thin body that dented alarmingly, the first 2CV, received an equivocal response when it was presented to dignitaries and the public at the Paris motor show in 1948. "Merde alors, it is hideous," one witness remarked. The then President Vincent Auriol stared dubiously at the

French car of the future and said "Humph" several times.
But within a very few years the 2CV had ceased to be a mere farmer's tool and had become a cherished part of the French landscape, a cult symbol that everyone could

in the Tintin cartoon series drive a 2CV, while in the film For Your Eyes Only James Bond escapes in one. Brigine Bardot drove a 2CV, and the transcontinental races involving the tough little car, which M Wolgensinger organised, increased its cachet.

M Wolgensinger reveals the 2CV in all its many shapes, colours and incarnations - converted into a boat. a bus, rolling along a high-wire and dangling from a

But new laws on safety and pollution spelled the end of the affair, and in the hard, fast world of car production the soft slow, coughing 2CV could no longer keep up. The

last one was made in 1990. "Anyone who has driven a 2CV knows that it is both more and less than a car," M Wolgensinger writes. This little motor is an expression of the soul. Along the thousand paths of the human memory, she is rolling still, unstoppably, into the eternity of re-membrance and the glory of lost youth."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Buchanan attacks pig factories as he cultivates Iowa

FROM TOM RHODES IN DES MOINES

PAT BUCHANAN is riding high on the hog in Iowa. The firebrand commentator rarely misses the opportunity to play to a local audience, and pigs are a big issue in the Midwest heartland these days.

During the next four days

the beasts may assume a pivotal role in the nomination of a Republican presidential candidate and a place in the American psyche not seen since the release of the film Babe. Mr Buchanan, fresh from a stunning victory over Senator Phil Gramm in Louisiana this week, has wasted little time in focusing his state's booming swine indusinvaded by giant hog lots,
massive porcine warehouses where pigs are born, fed and mated, then led to the slaughter. "It's bellish bad for the environment, and I think these hog farms threaten the very existence of the lowa family farmer," Mr Buchanan said on cue to the assembled gathering at a drab Howard Johnson motel on the outskirts

of Des Moines. He rails against the putric odours emanating from factory farms, making the issue reminiscent of the criticism he directed against Bill Clinton in 1992 over the environmentalproblems caused by the Arkansas poultry industry, and depicts himself as the farmers' only ally against the cult of "efficiency and gigamicism" in the heartland.

It is a popular theme for Mr Buchanan and one that dove ist "America First, mantra, leading swiftly to attacks or the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and what he claims are the false promises of the North American

Free Trade Agreement.
Every four years states such as lowe that play an early and significant role in the presidential campaign manage to impose their own slanted perspective on American politics. Stirred by intimate encounters between politicians and the electorate, there is no plainer

> 6 Republican caucuses are the perfect vehicles for the birth

way for voters to remind presidential aspirants that they have a say in what is important.

of an issue ?

This year, when the campaign is locked on national themes such as the flat tax, a. balanced federal budget, abortion and anti-Washington sentiments, encroaching hog lots could be seen as a distracting local sideshow or, in the caseof Mr Buchanan, a suitable opportunity to stump up votes. As Steve Forbes and Senator Robert Dole, the two main contenders for the Republican

tails nearly into his protection. ... throne, blitz the airwaves with personal attacks on each others values and the much vaunted flat tax. Mr Buchanan is considering a series of advertisements about pigs. The caucuses are the perfeet vehicle for the birth of an

issue," said Peverill Squire, a political scientist from the University of Iowa. "If you canfind the right cause to rally people around, you have a ready-made, committed group. of voters." Although Iowa is flat and friendly and the people here

still value their pork tenderloin sandwiches, the religious Right now controls more than 40 per cent of the lowa Republican Party. Mir Buchanan, Alan Keyes, the black former UN ambassador, and Robert Dornan, the California congressmen, are viewed as the only resolute pro-life candidates able to attract a consolidated evangelical vote but, along with Mr Dole and Senator Phil Gramm, they have divided the once powerful Christian vote. Mr Buchanan, a voice for

America's angry white males. who is trying to unite Reagan Democrats and former antigovernment supporters of Texas millionaire Ross Perot under his banner, is hoping the Christians will also coalesce behind him, as they did in Louisiana. Experts believe his extreme views and lack of organisation are unlikely to curry favour in lows. However, surveys show that more than a third of the 120,000



Pat Buchanan greets Republican supporters during his campaign tour of Iowa

precinct meetings on Monday are still undecided.

The latest poll by the University of lowa has shown a flagging Mr Dole leading Mr Forbes by a margin of 8 per cent, with Lamar Alexander, former Tennessee Governor, Mr Gramm and Mr

neck and neck. To avoid a weak ride to the New Hampshire primary later this month, Mr Dole must gain more than the 38 per cent he achieved in 1988. The Senate Majority Leader hopes the passage of a farm Bill in the

prices and government subsidies, will prove popular with farmers in Iowa and reinforce

That, of course, leads voters back to the tortured question of the pig and the possibility that Mr Buchanan may do better in this state than the

'Broke' Clinton's secret windfall pays legal fees

MONTH after President Clinton claimed his legal bills had left him broke, it has emerged that he has received a secret windfall.

Several years before he won the White House Mr Clinton bought two "liability" insurance policies of a sort favoured by professionals whose work could give rise to lawsuits. The President has now quietly claimed for the cost of defending himself against sexual harassment charges filed by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, and been paid a total of \$900,000

With the \$865,000 already collected by the President's legal defence fund, that payment will go a fair way towards meeting bills of more than \$2 million run up by the \$400-an-hour lawyers the Clintons have retained to defend them in the Whitewater and Jones cases.

The Wall Street Journal, which broke the story yesterday, said it was unclear whether Mr Clinton knew of the insurance payment when he told a White House press conference on January II that he was practically insolvent. "I feel badly that 20 years of hard effort and savings may go away," he said.

If Mr Clinton did know, he was clearly seeking to stir up public sympathy when he and his wife, Hillary, were facing renewed attacks over Whitewater. Robert Bennett, the head of Mr Clinton's defence team, said he had notified the two insurance companies early last year of the President's possible claims but Mr Clinton "certainly has not been focusing" on them.

It was also unclear what arguments Mr Bennett used to persuade the two insurance companies. State Farm and Pacific Indemnity, to pay up. Few liability policies explicitly cover sexual harassment, but as the Journal noted, "it may make things easier when the lawyer's client is the President of the US".

Ms Jones has filed a \$700,000 suit against Mr Clinton which alleges that, when he was Arkansas Governor, he asked a state trooper to bring her up to his hotel room, propositioned her and made reckless" and "persistent" advances when she turned him down. Mr Clinton has strenuously denied her allegations. An Arkansas judge ruled

that the case could not be heard until Mr Clinton's presidency was over, but an appeals court overturned that ruling last month. Mr Clinton's lawvers plan to go to the Supreme Court if necessary to prevent the case being heard while he is still President

Mr Bennett said he did not know whether the insurance money would cover all Mr Clinton's legal bills in the Jones case, or whether it would cover any damages against the President if the case were to succeed. It would not cover any of his

Whitewater expenses. The first policy was taken out in February 1991, three months before the alleged harassment. The second was not taken out until September 1994, but it covers legal costs incurred by the President in defending himself against Ms Jones's charges that he and his aides defamed her after she



Lois tears a strip off Superman

FROM OUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SUPERMAN, the American cartoon hero and quick-change specialist, is to be dumped by his girlfriend, Lois Lane. The split will occur Sources at the New York

offices of DC Comics, which produces the comic strip, said

regrettable step because Lois is not sure she can handle Superman's unreliability. The strip will begin with Lois blurting out: "I've been thinking" and complaining that "no matter how close we get, there's still a part of you that is somewhere else". Superman returns from a day's heroic deeds to find on his table the engagement ring he gave Lois The couple have been going out together, intermittently, since the cartoon appeared in 1938, and came to represent the chaste values of postwar

Senate this week, breaking the

Martha Thomases, for DC Comics, said: "Superman will he shown to be very upset." Miss Lane, she disclosed, has received romantic attention from Peter Parker, alias

'Smoking guns' alert in US BY QUENTIN LETTS

NEW YORK police have issued a warning to the public to beware of cigarette lighters that have been turned into James Bond-style miniature guns. They fear that a large number of the 2in by 4in weapons, which look like ordinary lighters, have been made in a clandestine operation.

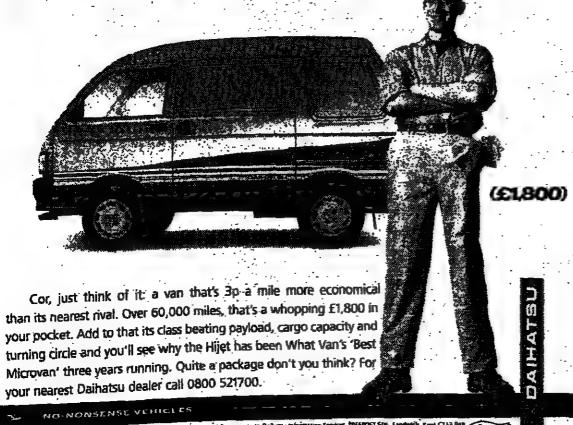
discredit "Q" from the 007 films, have been nicknamed

"smoking guns".

Two of the weapons, which fire a single .25mm slug, were found by a pickup-truck driver. The man tried to light his cigarette and was astonished when the "lighter" gave a sharp retort and shot a bullet

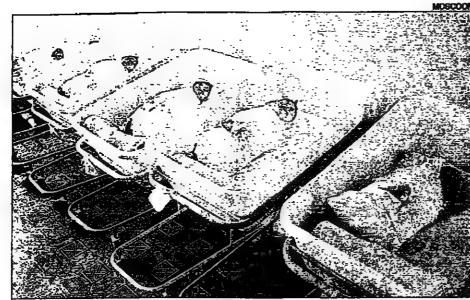
weren't splattered all over the place," said Detective Julio Martinez yesterday, "The bul-let missed him by an inch. These lighters can kill and may misfire at any time." He said that the guns were like the "zip" guns which carried only one bullet and which were used by gangs in the old days, and said that their purpose was either self-de-

The money I saved running the new Hijet Diesel gave me a huge bulge in my trousers."





The stolen babies of Lvov



Doctors made newborn babies "disappear" by erasing all traces of their existence

Baby-smuggling is now big business in Ukraine. RICHARD BEESTON travelled there and met one of its tragic victims, brain-damaged Aleksandr Brooks, who was sent back by the Americans who adopted him

n a forgotten corner of a Ukrainian hospital ward Aleksandr Brooks looks out from his dirty cot on a grim world he will never comprehend. His blue eyes dart from side to side in steady rhythm, his hands twitch uncontrollably and his

a high-pitched He has no toys, no visitors and only the bare green hospital walls for company. The overworked hospital staff are not even sure of his name, so he is routinely called the "American baby". They say he only seems happy when

Seeing him there heart-wrenching; listening to the history of his short but eventful life is even more so. Since his birth three years ago in the city of Lvov he has had two mothers and two fathers, has travelled to America and back and has had tens of thousands of dollars spent on him. Tragically, for this tiny blond-haired child, the

money and attention is the cause of his problems. Now brain-damaged and abandoned, he is destined to spend the rest of his years in the care of Ukraine's overstretched

state institutions In a country crippled by poverty and post-independence chaos, and still suffering the after-effects of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor plight of one child does not

But the story behind Alek-



Natasha Osipova wants her daughter back

illegal sale of babies by corrupt doctors and officials to the West, and the wholesale ished mothers, who were told that their newborns had died, or would have a better life

being brought up by the State. As Dr Vladimir Kolesnik, a

Gross % Net % Gross % Net %

5.45 4.09 5.32 3.99

local health inspector, explains: "A terrible crime was committed against the children of Lvov by the people entrusted with their care, and this child is their most tragic victim. I hope the people responsible will be punished." Ever since he was tipped off

> anonymously months ago, Dr Kolesnik worked doggedly to expose a smuggling ring involvdoctors, local officials, and even senior figures in the Government in

in spite of attempts to hush up shooting months ago of the chief criminal prosecutor on the case, Pylypchuk, has now widened across the country. It is believed that 802 children may sold abroad

fully preserved mecity of cobbled streets and towering church spires, has now been exposed as one of the most active centres of the

adoption racket. Here more than 130 newborn babies have been stolen either from their mothers, or from the care of the State, and sold to American. German and Italian couples for as much as \$40,000

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now in the hands of investigators, the principal operators were three doctors, now under arrest and awaiting trial. They preved on destinute, alcoholic and drug-addicted mothers, persuading them to turn their children over to the care of the State, before falsifying their up for adoption. Many of the women are too ashamed or frightened to come forward. But gradually their stories are

being told. Aleksandr's case is typical of how the operation worked.

206

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Grown %

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Crops &

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Born on a bitterly cold December day in 1992 to Hala Pup, an impoverished single mother, the premature, 3lb baby

was exactly what the dealers were looking for. It took Dr Vladirair Dorochenko, the head of the maternity centre, little effort to persuade the mother to sign away her parental rights and turn the tiny, ailing child over to his care. Once her consent was secured, the infant was removed from the intensive care unit and hidden in a flat

belonging to a retired nurse. now out of sight. the birth certificate was backdated six months to facilitate adoption, and negotiations for the sale began with an American adoption agency. However, the deal was com-

plicated on New

Year's Eve when

the child, deprived

of the intensive care

he needed, contracted meningitis and was taken to hospital with a critically high fever. Although Alek-sandr was now very sick and irreparably brain-dam aged, the sale still went ahead. Complete with his new identity he was flown out of Ukraine for delivery to his new adop-

tive parents in Massachusetts. The American couple, Peter and Katie Brooks, both lawyers, who operated through a licensed agency. were now landed with caring for a very sick baby. After three years of

expensive medical costs in the US they sent the child back. Contacted by phone in America, the adoptive father sounded very concerned about his son's tragic fate. But he remained guarded in his replies and refused to disclose any details of the adoption, in particular how much money was paid to the agency for Aleksandr.

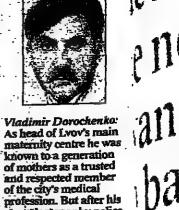
When I told him of the appalling circumstances in vhich I found the three-yearold, he sounded genuinely upset. He confirmed that he and his wife, who had previously adopted an American baby, had taken the decision to return the child only after long the mounting medical bills, costing several thousand dollars a month We no longer had the

ability financially or emotionally to provide the care required," said Mr Brooks, who added that he believed his adopted son would receive better treatment in Ukraine than in the US. "Sending himback was the hardest thing I have ever done. It was not done willingly or happily."

Although none of the Western couples adopting the children were aware that they were hood on the southern edge of Lyov, she was pressured again. and again to sign her son over to the authorities.

There was no room here at the time so I reluctantly agreed," she said. "Later they told me he had died." In fact, her son is alive. Now called Brent Hanson, he is being raised by his adoptive parents on a sheep farm in Towa.

Natasha Osipova never meant to give birth in Lyov. Journeying by train in Decem-ber 1993, she went into labour and headed for the nearest



investigating the disap-pearance of newborn nabies, he was identified as the ring-leader of a trade in children worth tens of thousands of pounds. He is suspected of falsifying the medical documents of 30 to 40 children who were then illegally sold to American couples for

arrest last year by police



Expectant mothers due to give birth in the small regional hospital of Kamyanka-Buzka near Lvov atways looked forward to a visit from Dr Ornst, the deputy head physician. A young mother of three with a kindly smile and sympathetic bedside unner, she lavished attention on the poores girls. It was only when she was picked out in an dentity parade by latasha Osinova that her real identity was was a key figure in the amoggling racket

as Emilia Danzig of Cleveland, Ohio. The scale of the baby-smug-

ing operation, and evidence that corrupt senior officials collaborated by signing adoption papers, initially shocked Ukraine, where Western couples are now banned from

adopting children. "Ukraine was thrown back into the Middle Ages when its neighbours took Ukrainian babies, as the Turks did to fill the ranks of their militin." said Yevhen Kraslyakov, a Com-

deputy speaking at a bested debate on the subject in the Ukrainian parliament earlier this However, any

hopes that the real colorits will be brought to trial or that the trade has finally stamped out raises shrug from most of Lvov's long-suffering people, grown used to widespread government corchecked gangsterule. Part of the scepticism derives from the fact that against selling children, and the three doctors now under arrest are being investigated only for falsifying

documents. "We had eight prominent members of the city gunned down last year in gangster shootings and no one has been arrested," said Igor Pochenok, the editor of the weekly Express newspaper. People here have become accus-

tomed to the crimimals getting away with their terrible crimes. As for baby Aleksandr, he at

least has one person who is still willing to stand up for his I am not speaking as a Ukrainian or a doctor, just as

a human being," said Or

Kolesnik. "I am going to make

sure that those responsible (the American couple, while not criminally at fault, are made to realise they are morally guilty.

But as long as people continue to pay for children, there will always be a market

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THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.



Olga Ushakova was told her son had died, but he is alive and living in Iowa

They preyed on the destitute, persuading them to turn their children over before selling them abroad'

Lvov, centre of the babies for sale ring

funding an illegal trade in stolen babies, the huge sums involved in the transactions simply made the middle-men even more brazen.

One of their next victims was Olga Ushakova. A young and unemployed alcoholic whose former husband is in iail, she was an obvious target for the unscrupulous doctors when she gave birth prematurely to Vitalik on July 1, 1993. The doctors told her that she was an inadequate mother and that the child was

deformed. Although she did take him home to her squalid apart-

hospital. This lonely and vulnerable new mother was befriended there by Ludmilla Ornst, a local doctor now under arrest. Ornst persuaded her to leave her daughter. Sladja, in foster care until she was ready to look after her.

When Ms Osipova returned three months later the hospital had no record of the birth and the doctor had vanished. The baby's birth had been re-registered at another hispital

with a different birthdate.

Although Ms Osipova says that she wants her child back. she has neither the resources nor the strength to retrieve her

Why David Storey has decided he never wants to go back to the North again

evening at David Storey's play The Changing Room, revived at the Duke of York's - naked men, most on the beefy side, with all their bantering bravado - brings back memories of the days when playwrights arrived in London with attitude; gritty blokes from the

David Storey came from Wakefield, an interesting combination of brawn and brain: a rugby league player; son of a miner, who was also a painter, a student at the Slade. His. novels were as successful as his plays: This Sporting Life, with Richard Harris, became one of those definitive Sixtles films; and he won the Booker Prize in 1976 with the excellent

idn't he have a firebrand reputation. being noted for biffing a critic 20 years ago in the bar of the Royal Court? I remembered this as I watched this big, gentle, quietly-spoken, white mired mun in canvas shoes, in his kitchen with wallpaper from Woolworths, making me his wife, married for 40 years. live in one of the meaner streets of Kentish Town: their house, now that the four children have departed, is the one with a fresh coat of paint. Remind me, I said, about

why you struck a critic. The play was called Mother's Day. The preview houses had been full. But he had a premonition that the first night would be a disaster, and it was. One of the actors dried. Michael Billington's notice in The Guardian began succinctly: "A stinker.

Not for the first time, a playwright was convinced that his play was killed off by critics. In the bar, where Storey was addressing the cast, he belaboured Billington about the head. "Poor old Michael," he laughs. "We've got on well, before and since.

Playwrights do get above themselves. You're in a marketplace. If you don't sell the stuff on the stall, you've had it. Your whole bloody destiny is forged in the ridiculous ritual of one night. That's what makes playwrights so sensi-

person's racket."
In those days the Royal Court was constantly in ferment. "But it had a cohesive. policy. Slightly didactic, but it was the only place you could put on innovative writing with any kind of impact. Now. there are half a dozen theatres doing that - but there's a scarcity of new writing."

Schooled at Wakefield Grammar himself, Storey sent all his children to state comprehensives, and kept them there even when others whisked their darlings away to independent havens. This is a pertinent tale, which the Dromeys and Blairs might heed, since at 62 he is exactly one generation older than they

- At Hampstead Comprehensive he stood up at PTA meetings, full of indignant questions. Why had his eldest daughter, Helen, achieved one O level after years of blithe reports from her teachers? Why had there never been any homework?

"Homework," he says, "was treated as almost a fascist suggestion. Some of our childre, they told me, live 20 to a room la complete lief with nowhere to do homework." I said: Why not allocate them a classroom after school? That would 'stigmatise' them. I remember the headmaster dards: Well, my principle is. as long as they're happy That was the ethos of the time. In following the idea of equali-

remove my children from the school. I said: I'm going to keep them there because I believe in comprehensive edocation." Late one night I got a call from a teacher: I know you feel you're on your own. but there is a nucleus of older teachers who are completely. behind what you're doing.'

"It was a three-year battle. that I wouldn't want to go through again. But in the end marking - were formalised. and the school pulled round: in one year, a 25 per cent improvement in exam results. Now one of my grandchildren is going to that school." He knew what he was

thing about because he had alight in 17 schools himself, ncluding three officially des ignated the worst in the couriry, in Islington and the East End. He describes diassrooms where youths fought, wielding While a teacher sat slumped: having given up the struggle. 'Ar least a third of the teachers should never have been allowed near a school. But teachers have been so devitalised; the profession





can't attract the right kind of

The postscript to Storey's story is that his children have done extremely well. Helen Storey built up a successful fashion design business and has been commissioned by Faber to write her autobiography - " at the age of 36", her father notes. The next daughter went to Cambridge, and is now at Oxford doing research in neurobiology. His eldest son is the finance director of a shipping firm; the youngest is an aeronautical engineer.

f Labour politicians' dilemmas over education, he says: "It seems to me completely hypocritical, if you're professionally advocating a particular policy, to abrogate your own involvement in it. I can see that the vacillating middle ground will probably go along with Harriet Harman. So the most vacillating part of the popula-tion controls all our destinies.

The Changing Room - a real period piece, 25 years on - was tough to cast: ruggerplaying physique matched with the right temperament. In 1971 they auditioned 650 actors. (The original players included Michael Elphick and Brian Glover.) This time they saw only 150 - the reduction of drama school grants reduces the number of potential

working-class actors. He still writes every day. He has binned about 30 plays. "It's very wasteful. But I can't work the other way - researching and plotting for two years first. My writing has to Boundid Nightingale, page 29



be organic. I start off with a first line and hope something will happen. His plays always wrote themselves in a few days. The Changing Room took five.

He rarely goes to the theatre wrights. He likes the anonymity. Nor does he read newspapers or watch teledown all my work consistently for 37 years. They turned down Home, with Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud, directed by Lindsay Anderson. Evennually an American TV company filmed it, and the BBC bought it for two

His fatalistic, phiegmatic Yorkshire monotone remains, but having left Wakefield in 1953 he never goes back there if he can help it. "Yorkshire bears no resemblence now to my memory; an imaginary Yorkshire which no longer exists. Five pits have disappeared, including the two my father worked in, and it's all been landscaped, you'd never know there'd been any collieries. I'm still engaged by the people, but there's no congruity between the present and the past. I was so longing to get away - I've never really lost that sense of glad relief at having escaped from it."

Yet having got off the train at King's Cross, where he and his wife Barbara lived in a room above a shop, a true artist, starving for my vocation", and bought a white Jaguar for E7,500 with his first fiction prize — "drove it like a maniac and sold it for £10" he has never left the borough

Barbara works at the local Citizens Advice Bureau, where queues of refugees, "care in the community" patients, the disabled, the unemployed and the unemployable form daily. "All of them are desperate, a testimony to society. So many of their problems are unterly insoluble."

This house was to be a temporary base, but they have stayed nine years. In his first week here, he witnessed the first of several muggings; the police officer said: "You do realise you're living in a highly criminalised area, don't you?"

Now he finds a poem springs unbidden from him every day. A volume of 200 poems is with his publishers now. "I'm sure they welcome it with all the excitement of a bill through the post."

He accepts no advances or deadlines. A lengthy new novel is almost ready. Also a philosophical work about the structure of the psyche, based on his own experience. Not that he ever had a clinical nervous breakdown; he just felt, he says quite equably. anxiety about the normal vacillations of life

Enter the organic carnivore

IF organic food was once the butt of gibes about beards. lentils and people employed to stick mud on to potatoes, three things have happened in recent years to make "organic" the designer label.

Genetic engineers have cre-ated fruit and vegetables that look and taste like hat decorations. Television exposes have shown the horrors of modern husbandry — and BSE has made us potential co-victims of those horrors.

An organic boom has resulted and Britain now has its first organic supermarket, west London's highly funky Planet Organic, where beef sales have risen 30 per cent since the BSE scare. Meat was once an exper

SIGN OF

THE TIMES by Giles Coren

became a daily requirement and standards fell to provide it; now we eat not only poor meat, but too much of it. Punters at Planet Organic have rediscovered a lost tra-dition: instead of a £1.50 frozen chicken every day they buy an occasional £8 organic free-range bird, which tastes like chicken used to and cannot be carved with a spoon.

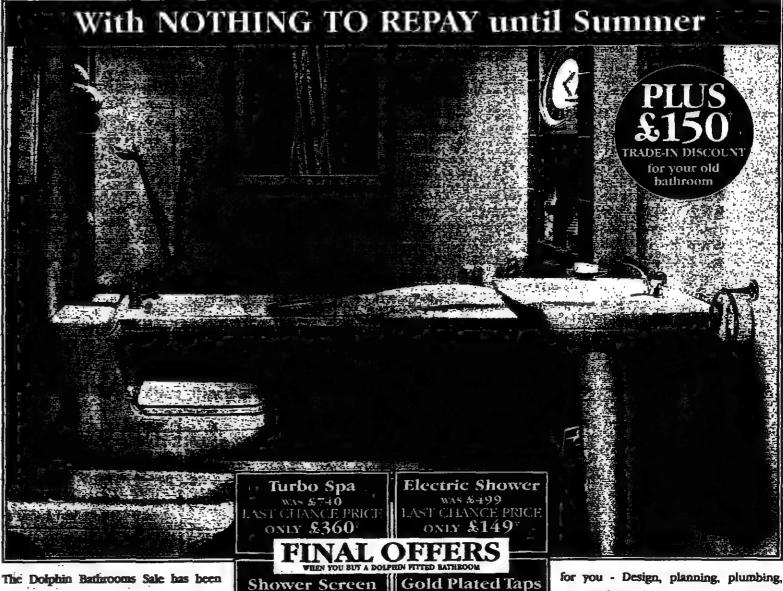
Instead of a steak for £1.30 that has been subjected to BSE-friendly conditions, they buy a less frequent £3.50 steak, which tastes infinitely better. A side effect, of course of this quality-quantity trade off will be less heart disease. Will it catch on? In my local Waltrose last night the free range chickens were sold out while rows of merely "fresh"

fowl — pallid and swollen-breasted — were undisturbed. The New Carnivore is at large, moved by respect not for poultry, but for himself.

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Philip Howard



In the great linguistic debate, both sides claim Dr Johnson — and rightly so

The Reith lecturer has poked her stick into a hornets' nest. Out buzz the crusties swollen with venom, stinging Jean Aitchison for permissiveness about language reminiscent of the worst excesses of the Tower of Babel. They cannot have been listening to more than the first sentence broadcast by the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Languages and Communication: "Is our language sick?" Her conclusion that this question is as illogical as "Is Friday morning pink?", is common sense as well as an academic cliché. But this has not stopped prescrip-

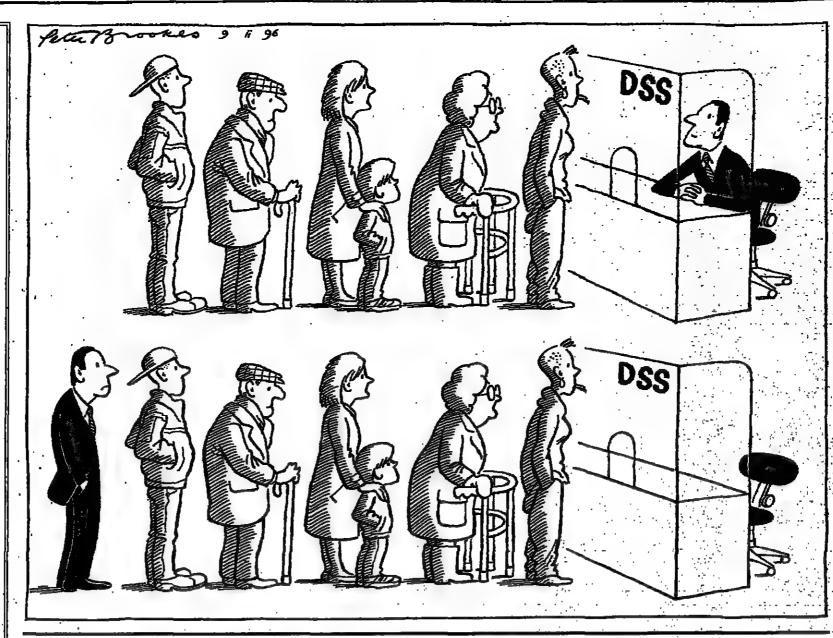
tivist pseudo-intellectuals spitting with rage.

She has been abused for betraying her classical education — were it not for the fact that many classics departments have been taken over by political correctives and trendies". I have yet to meet a nasty corrective in a classics department. Classicists tend to be conservative. This is not surprising when the words for revolution in their languages are "new things". So beware of classicists, Tony Blair and your "new" Labour.

Professor Aitchison is libelled in billboard type as "A woman wot hates English as it is writ", and attacked for her supposed politics, trendiness, linguistic relativism and split in-finitives — especially for her split infinitives. Honest guvs, she only did it to annoy you because she knows it teases. The best reason for avoiding split infinitives is that they drive berserk the irascible pedants who believe that language runs on tramlines rather than joyriding down the open road. You'do better not to split, not because you care about their taboo, but because you care about your reputation with your audience. But English is already full of engrafted split infinitives: to overthrow, to understate. And there are a few sentences where the meaning can be expressed only by splitting, when a modifier such as really needs to be handcuffed to its verb. "You are too young to really remember the war." If you unsplit by putting really before to, you could be misunderstood as focusing on too young. As a reader of a grown-up newspaper, you are too sensible to really fuss about such trivia.

Who are these prescriptivists who attack Jean Aitchison for during to suggest that there ain't no such thing as perfect English, and for enjoying its rich varieties? They are white, middle-class, middle-browed males, middle-aged temperamentally if not temporally. Most of them earn a crust by writing "Why-oh-why?" tirades for the more excitable (and paradoxically more expensive) newspapers about how the world is going to the dogs, intellectually, morally, politically and linguistically. They misunderstand the way language works. English is the one subject on which any native-speaker can claim to be an expert. The language prescriptivists find themselves growing older in a new world, surrounded by new ideas, new words, new grammar, new fashions. and younger rivals even for the low trade of old-fogey punditry. Their problem is not the decay of English, but the male menopause.

ow quaint that both sides claim Dr Johnson as their ally. Sam is like Scripture: he left so much that everyone (except a Scottish Whig) can find a supportive quotation in his work. Jean Aitchison and her critics are both right, like people describing Mont Ste-Victoire from opposite sides. As a poor Staffordshire boy who made good, Samuel was in awe of posh accents and "correct" grammar. His plan for the Dictionary declared: "The chief intent is to preserve the purity and ascertain, the meaning of our English idiom." But by the time he had wrestled with his definitions for years, he had come to see that the notion of preserving the purity of a language was a will-o'-the-wisp. So in his Preface he changed his aim, to "not form, but register the language". Jean Aitchison is following in her master's footsteps, but there is far more language in different varieties than when Dr Johnson laid down the principle: masters of the shifting language record it rather than laying down rules. Johnson would have loved his blue-stocking professor as a woman with a bottom of good sense. And when vile Whiggish pedants sniggered, he would have put them down: "Where's the merriment? I say the woman is fundamentally sensible."



No immunity now

e are on the eve of the Scot revelations - I understand that they take the form of a very thick book - and you do not need to be a cynic like me to know that many people who will be discussed in its pages are now piling up the sneers. the rubbishings, the attacks and all the various reasons why Sir Richard Scott is wrong, pig-headed, lazy and ignorant. Indeed, before the magician opens his box there will be several suggestions that Scott has been insane for some time, and not a few more that he has been bribed. But I don't really need to mock the Scott tremblers, because there are so many of the real ones who are now busy lying, cheating and running away that Scott will have to write

another book soon. The bits and pieces are numerous well, that is why the story has taken three-and-half years to unfold. I do not intend to go through those bits and pieces; there will be dozens of bloodhounds - hundreds - clutching this document or that denial, and I propose to step back from the gigantic hurly-burly and think of what this story really tells us. For the length is deep and the

Let me start with a minor figure, but one who embodies much of the story. He is Lord Howe of Aberavon, formerly Geoffrey Howe. Picking up of a copy of The Speciator, I find an article by him covering many pages and — no joke — several thousand words.

Now what has come over the old Speccers, that it allows onto its pages matter doubly unreadable — once for its length and twice for its prose? We find the answer very quickly: our Geoffrey has got wind of what Scott is jingling in his pockets. Yes, but why should he be the standerd-bearer for those who are marked men? It shows great generosity. does it not? For these are interesting

The Scott Inquiry is not a tribunal upon whose judgment the reputation of anyone should be allowed to depend. I write those words with regret and with a full realisation that no one should pronounce such a verdict without having given careful thought to its consequences . . . I scarcely believed myself when I complained initially that this was an inquiry at which — as never before — defence lawyers may be seen but not heard . . . Many others who appeared before Scott share this perplexed and resentful view of their treatment. Since their reputations could be severely tarnished by the

Advance attempts to discredit Scott and his inquiry cannot obscure the depths

to which this Government has sunk

outcome, the flaws I have described give

I'll huff and I'll puff and blow your house down. For nowhere — nowhere — amid the scores of paragraphs that spill out in this dreadful screed does our hero tell us - or admit - that he himself has been up before the beak: Lord Geoff has already been rebuked, albeit very mildly, by Sir Richard Scott. No wonder he was spluttering. (But Boris Johnson, of *The Daily Telegraph*, should be ashamed of himself for joining the gang ho are trying to rubbish

Lyell, the Attorney-General, is the first one for the chop. I would like a front row seat at any price, but I

think that in this case there is more to a lousy lawyer than we can see for the moment. Suppose Lyell quits or is pushed; a considerable

sigh of relief will, or at least should, be heard. But even I, the man who despises Lyell most, am willing to say that if Lyell is going to be the fall-guy, a very shocking miscarriage of judgment will have taken place. And I assure you that in the days to come there will be very many similar miscarriages of judgment.

Do you care greatly, readers, about the Matrix Churchill business? 1 am sure that many of you are thinking that it is something about Winston Churchill perhaps another statue is to be raised. I don't care much about the Matrix etc. but I follow it not because of the depressing details, nor because I am looking forward to Scott's bag of toffeeapples, but because it tells me as clearly as Big Ben that the Scott report is yet another nail in the coffin of this putrid Government.

Before Scott pulled down the blinds (and remember that there was a very long and mendacious series of statements before Scott finished his open version of what happened in Matrixtime), the whole story pivoted upon the fact that men from a British company, involved in selling arms, some of which would go to the evil Saddam, were simultaneously bringing back useful—indeed vital—knowledge. In the melecthere were arrests, largely of the wrong people, and under the boneheads of Mi6 (what bones! what heads!) it seemed that nobody had had enough sense to give a wink and a nod and shuffle off a couple of dozen Matrix

Churchills when nobody was looking.
Even then, sense could have reigned,
but it didn't. With a crash of cymbals. those who were there to straighten out Now we are told that Sir Nicholas the nonsense called up the nonsense

instead: "public interest immunity certificates" were waved (would that they had been waived instead). and from that moment. the tide could never be turned. Folly, stupidity and incompetence reign in this story. And something else. That

ghastly business of the signing of the dirty certificates (which, incidentally, will finish Lyell off) means that only Heseltine remains in the clear (don't worry, he won't let us forget), and the rest are tarred with the dirt of the certificates. I have repeatedly said that public interest immunity certificates" (or "gagging orders") are never in the public interest, but are always and only for the use of ministers and their minions who are trying to cover up something scandalous. (See, for in-stance, the attempt by Virginia Bottomley and Gillian Shephard to cover up their appalling conduct with gagging orders and other documents concerning

the dangers of listeria.) So why do I wish to add my fourpence, when we are almost on the eve of the real thing? They say it is a very thick book; I say the thicker the better. I am not going to explain what Scott tells us; he will make it very clear, I am sure. So why am I poking my nose into things that will be fully poked within days?

It is because I have to deal with what is left over the wrappings of the sweets, the spent candle ends, the pips and the husks. For I assure you that very soon we shall all be up to our knees in

Oh, that's even less than nothing Already, the Prime Minister has an-nounced that he will not act on any of Scott's findings. True, when Scott's inquiry was set up, the Prime Minister had no objections, and gave Scott every-thing he wanted. But now, it might make his rancid Government even more shaky than it is already, so our brave PM looks the other way when Scott is mentioned. And he needs to, because it is clear that Scott will criticise him very mildly, as with Howe — but the Prime Minister too has another small stain on his already soiled escutcheon.

nd the snowball grows larger as it rolls down the hill. Try a few beadlines: "Ministers star Scott damage limitation : "Sir Nicholas Lyell is likely fall guy" Revealed Scott report leak puts minis ter in firing-line on arms sales": "Lyell and Waldegrave-will fight resignation calls on Scott report". And, going back some time: "Lyell blames officials over PII certificates" (he would); "In Whitehall, preparations are well under way for a fierce rebuttal of the findings "Scott leaks 'aimed at limiting govern-

ment damage".
But I have nurtured, right through the years of Scott, one passage that I have kept, one paragraph that I wish I had written myself. It is by Michael Jones of The Sunday Times, and this is what he said:

The fundamental issue is tals. What happened in the Matrix Churchill case threatened the rights of every British subject to a fair rolal and the individual's enshrined protection from arbitrary arrest enshrined protection from arbitrary arrest and loss of liberty. Magna Carta and all that flowed from it guaranteed no less. So what happens in the Scott inquiry and after matters deeply. At one level we find exposed those arcane parts of government that seldom see the light of day and only attract our attention when they publicly crash gears, as they did over the Matrix Churchill case. At a deeper level, we see a mind-set rooted in self-service, self-esteem and authoritation procests that threaten and authoritarian precepts that threater

I eagerly await my copy of the Scott report. And I await, not eagerly, the realisation that whatever happens now, we shall have taken yet another step into

Snobs— but not nepotists

Magnus Linklater

says Britain isn't so class-ridden after all

friend just starting in journalism A was explaining to me last week how helpful his public school background was proving. His upper-class accent and his eminently recognisable surname, he said, had not recognisable surname, he said, had not only given him an entree to the profession, it had allowed him to land a good royal story which had pleased his editor and given him a couple of rungs start on the promotion ladder. The old school rie, he assured me, had been a great asset great asset.

I found that faintly depressing. Are a phimmy accent and a few useful connections still the keys to preferment in Britain, like being given a gold credit card at birth? It is more than live years since John Major announced his commitment to a classless society, and rather more than that since Margaret Thatcher apparently swept aside the old-boy net in favour of the barrow-boy culture, so allowing talent, enterprise and red braces free rein in Britain, irrespective of accent, Yet here we are, apparently still mesmerised by the discreet charm of the aristocracy.

In some ways, it seems almost as if we have been going backwards. At the same age, and roughly the same stage in journalism. I remember desperately trying to conceal any hint of privileged upbringing, flattening my vowels and emphasising my simple peasant ancestry in order to convince my news editor that I was one of the lads. Putting on airs didn't get you far on the reporters' desk in those days, but then that was Manchester and those were the 1960s. Today, the Hugh Grant style seems once again to be a passport to

Recently, however, I stumbled across heartening evidence that this may be a superficial view, and that in some ways Britain is far less bothered by class, nepotism or social contacts than many other countries in Europe, Interviewed in the latest issue of the Bristol University magazine, Nonesuch, Professor Gianni Angelini, an Italian who is now a leading heart surgeon in this country, says that in his experience, Britain is the most open society in Europe, encouraging talent and skill without regard to background or influence in ways that would be inconcervable in his native Italy.

Angelini, who began his academic career at the University of Siena, set out

to study medicine with only a diploma in mechanical engineerin ved in Britain he could not speak a word of English, yet today he holds the British Heart Foundation Chair in Cardiac Surgery and heads Bristol University's newly opened Heart Institute.

"I couldn't have achieved any of this if I had stayed in Italy," he says. "The Italian system is too nepotistic. To climb the ladder it doesn't matter how good you are. If your father was a professor, you have a pretty good chance of being a professor. If your father was a lorry driver, like mine, I'm afraid you have a bit of a problem.

The professor told me that in Italy, where there is a surplus of 40,000 doctors, a foreigner "doesn't stand a chance. But worse than that, the medical world is in tightly gripped in the hands of a small number of professors at the top dictating all new appointments. Connections are vital. The medical system is influenced by the political system, and very few university appointments are open to selection," he said. This means that there is very little competition." Promotion tends to be based on the Italian equivalent of Buggins' turn. "It is like an inherited disease," says Angelini, "only the degree of the disease gets worse." The professor has encountered none

of that in Britain. From the start his progress was dictated by merit alone. One of the things that has impressed him most is the absence of political string-pulling here. "In Italy you have no be supported by a political party even to apply for a job as a road-sweeper. It's who you know that counts. Here I don't even know the name of my local MP."

Mugging up

JONATHAN AITKEN, who left. the Cabinet to spend more time with his libel lawyers, is certainly doing his homework. He has been checking up on George Carman, QC, the ferocious Great Defender, who is expected to give the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury a grilling when his action against The Guardian comes to court.

He has spent large chunks of this week in the public gallery of Court 13 at the High Court, watching Carman's every move in his defence of the Daily Mirror in the case brought against it by a surgeon whom the paper dubbed "Dr Dolittle". Aitken, who declared last year

that he was leaving the Government to fight "the cancer of bent and twisted journalism ... with the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of fair play", issued writs against The Guardian and World in Action over accusations about his relationship with members of the Saudi Royal Family and his business links with two Lebanese businessmen.

He has been very attentive at this week's High Court show. Carman was doing his 'I shall ask you one more time and then I shall move on' act. Aitken was

grinning a lot," says one spectator. However, Aitken denies suggestions that he was there to get the measure of the man who has won cases for Jeremy Thorpe, Ken Dodd and Elton John, "No, no, no. nothing like that," he explains. There are lots of things that are very interesting about the case. It's a case with important ramifications. My own counsel, Charles Gray told me about it."



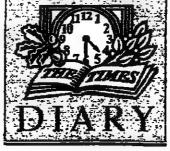
Carman the Great Defender

 Those crusty individuals, Ox ford college porters, have a soft spot for even the most disreputa-ble of their former undergradu-ates. When discussing the exploits of a flamboyant Old Etonian undergraduate, one Magdalen porter was overheard saying wistfully: "The college hasn't seen his like since that Darius Guppy . . ."

Bluffery

THE MYSTERY that surrounds the identity of the author of Primary Colors: A Novel of Politics. the barely disguised account of the 1992 Clinton campaign, is being stirred up by the English writer Christopher Hitchens. The anonymous book has caused a storm in the States, with its "fictional" Governor Stanton, his steely wife Susan and a Gennifer Flowers character known as "Cashmere McLeod".

On Wednesday in Washington, Hitchens - who famously attacked Mother Teresa in his book The Missionary Position - astonished browsers at a downtown bookstore by signing copies of the book. And yesterday he said his own article in the current issue of The New York Review of Books. which speculates on the book's authorship, was a "double bluff". "I am very much looking forward to being the guest of honour



at the party for the book," he said. A weary voice from Random House, which refuses to name the author, adds: "He has been talking about going on a publicity tour soon, preferably to Palm Beach." Sound's like a triple bluff.

Spud upping

JOHN MAJOR's fragile majority of four almost suffered a damaging blow late on Wednesday night, when Jerry Hayes succumbed to the dangers of dining at the Commons. The Tory MP with the golden locks and a predilection for tacky late-night television studios. choked on a roast potato in the Members' Dining Room.

It stuck in his gullet, he could not breathe and had it not been for the swift action of a fellow diner. Tory MP Robert Hughes, the bearded Hayes might have been

heading for the great division lob-Bob gave me a huge thwack on

the back and the potato just came flying out," Hayes says, "Alastair Goodlad [the chief whip] was eating at the next table. He turned quite pale."

 Australia and the West Indies may not be prepared to play their World Cup cricket matches in Colombo, but Asian schoolboys will not be missing out. A new computer game enables them to programme any combination of players they like to compete at any of the continent's grounds, in whatever conditions - and even to decide the outcome of the tournament.

Treble chance

TINA TURNER, she of the huge hair and the strut, is to be backed on her next record by a host of heavenly choirboys. One of the tracks on her next CD needs boy trebles, so ten choristers from Durham's Cathedral Choir School have been chosen to accom-

The boys, aged between 10 and 12, are being rehearsed by the cathedral's sub-organist Keith Wright. But sadly, they will not be able to chatter in the dorm after lights-out about any personal en-



counters with the raunchy rocker. Tina Turner has already done her bit in the recording studio." says the Choir School's Headmaster. Stephen Drew. The boys willrecord their backing in the cathedral, and the tapes will be edited together."

• King Husain of Jordan has an eye for a bargain. At a powerboat show in LA this week, he was taken with a nippy vessel with a top speed of 100mph and a \$400,000 price tag. He offered cash and had \$10,000 knocked off.

rance - where you either are or are not part of the gratin, the form of snobbery, an intellectual brand, which means that if you are not an Enarque, a product of the top stream of the grandes écoles, advancement is unlikely. The aristocracy no longer counts, but the meritocracy has given us a new class system," said Stephane Crouzat, head of the French Institute in Edinburgh. "Where you went to school is all-important." Perhaps, after all, and almost without realising it, Britain is less imprisoned by its class system, less strangled by its old school tie than some of its European neighbours. A merchant banker in London, who told me that at one stage an Eton and

Oxbridge education was almost a sine qua non in his organisation, now takes most of his recruits from Newcastle University. He reckons that in the jungle of the financial world today, a recommendation about someone's boy passed on over the brandy in Brooks's is almost counter-productive. If a candidate needs that kind of help, perhaps he isn't much good.
Another friend of mine, who inter-

views job applicants in a multination. company, said that recommendations from friends or relations were noted, but rarely played any part in the final decision. How odd, therefore, that they still seem to work in the freebooting world of the fourth estate. A case, perhaps, for a Fleet Street version of Lord Nolan's inquiry.

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THREE COUNTRYMEN

Rural landscape has changed more than the political

It is as often a cause for alarm as celebration when the country's leaders all agree. Policies as unhappy as appeasement and the ERM have enjoyed a cross-party consensus in the past. But some worthy causes have also secured all-party backing. Sixty-seven years ago The Times was happy to publish a letter signed by the leaders of Parliament's three biggest parties pledging to preserve the best of rural England. Today we are pleased to reprint the same sentiments endorsed by the three men who lead the same parties. If only the countryside were as unchanging as the politicians pieties.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown repeat, almost verbatim, the hopes outlined by their predecessors. Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald and David Lloyd George, in 1929, on the eve of another famous election when Labour was looking to make an historic breakthrough. It is perhaps unsurprising that the current leaders feel able to echo so exactly the call for sensitive development and thoughtful conservation of another generation for they are, so strikingly, the heirs of Baldwin, MacDonald and Lloyd George.

Mr Major, is like Baldwin, an unshowy epresentative of Middle England who has coped stoically with royal scandal and appealed lyrically to our nostalgic sense of nation, substituting warm beer and old maids for ploughmen and scythes: Mr Blair, like MacDonald, is a rightwinger with a cautious Shadow Chancellor, Mr Blair, like MacDonald, seems happier in Establishment salons than in his own party. Mr Ashdown, like Lloyd George, combines grand rhetoric with a taste for the flashy and a special sympathy for the female sex.

Yet while these aspects of the political landscape seem surprisingly little changed. the shape of our countryside has been dramatically altered since 1929. The automobile's appetite for land, the mechanisation of farming and the twisted priorities of the common agricultural policy have combined to drive the England of Baldwin's boyhood to the margins of our memories. Village life, its rhythm surprisingly constant from the Anglo-Saxons to The Archers, has never been more changed: small shops are displaced by superstores. property prices are driven up by city refugees and public transport worsens.

Steps have been taken by the party leaders to enact policies in line with the principles to which they put their names. Last October the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, published a thoughtful White Paper on the Countryside which promised steps to safeguard village life: he has also worked hard to conserve rare species. The abandonment of many road-building schemes announced last November should also be applauded. It may be more a matter of conserving taxpayers' money than the land but it is welcome nevertheless. The main Opposition parties have been constructive critics of the roads programme. It is a pity a good case has so often been spoilt by the antics of protesters whose lifestyles mock the traditional virtues of the countryside they claim to protect.

Aside from sustaining sensitive development there is one other service that politicians could do rural people if they sincerely wish to see, "the protection of our countryside in its rich personality and character". The modish metropolitan enthusiasm for a ban on fox hunting should be opposed. A recreation enjoyed by country folk of every class, as much part of the personality of rural England as its hedgerows and Norman churches, it is a liberty worth defending. The English character may be suburban but its roots are rural. Those roots require nurturing, not just casual neglect and the occasional agreement to agree.

THE MOSTAR TEST

If Mostar becomes a Balkan Berlin, all bets for peace are off

Nato has made commendable headway in implementing the military provisions of the Dayton agreement on Bosnia. Armies have been separated more or less on schedule. The task of marking out internal boundaries. has fallen behind, but that is because of heavy snow, uncharted minefields and problems created where the lines on the Dayton maps saw through schools and houses. In most areas, the spirit of the agreement is being observed. The bitter disputes over the report on page 12, are exceptions: but they very important exceptions.

If these two cities become Balkan Berlins. permanently divided, all bets are off for lasting peace in Bosnia. Sarajevo's reunification is the prime symbol and test of the readiness of Bosnia's separate Serb and Muslim-Croat "entities" to coexist in a federal Bosnian Republic. It is also the necessary condition for setting up Bosnia's collective presidency, parliament and supreme court. Mostar is equally critical, for different reasons. If the city remains divided between Croats and Muslims, the Muslim-Croat Federation will collapse and with it, the entire Dayton plan. Because the federation's Muslim and Croat cantons form a patchwork that could not physically be separated were Bosnia to split in three, the federation's collapse would mean war.

The reintegration of both cities is at a standstill. In Sarajevo yesterday the Bosnian Serbs, who had already suspended all political contact with the Bosnian Government, announced that they will no longer talk to the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor).

The reason they give is the Bosnian Government's detention of Bosnian Serb officers, whom it accuses of war crimes. These cases are now being investigated by the Hague war crimes tribunal and unless Mr Justice Goldstone finds grounds to indict thers the men must be released. But this is almost certainly just a pretext. The Serbs have been looking for an excuse to avoid handing the Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo to Bosnian Government control by March 19, as required by Dayton. They are out to hang onto them at least until after the

Bosnian elections due later this year. That cannot be countenanced. But the Americans must also increase pressure on the Bosnian Government, which is in retreat from the multicultural goals which won it so much international support. It has done too little to convince the Serbs and Croats who. make up a fifth of Government-held they will ive a fair share o political power, let alone to reassure the inhabitants of the Serb-held suburbs that that they will be safe in a united city.

The ultranationalist Croats of Mostar can claim no excuse for this week's violence against Hans Koschnick, the European Union's capable administrator for the city, or for breaking into the EU's Mostar headquarters. The fault lies entirely with the Croats. Mostar's 55,000 Muslims suffered terribly at the hands of Croat forces, who fought for a year to establish Mostar as the capital of an independent Croatian state of Herzeg-Bosna. Yet they strongly support a reunited city. Herr Koschnick has produced an administrative plan, as envisaged by Dayton, which is fair and sensible. The Croats moreover asked Herr Koschnick to mediate a fortnight ago and promised to abide by his vardict. But now, urged on by Croat gang-leaders who make fortunes out of partition, the mayor of the Croat part of the city has reverted to the demand that Mostar be "the Croat capital".

Croatia, which supports Mostar's Croats while claiming that it cannot control them. has the power to stop them and must be made to do so. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, is right to hold President Tudiman to account. In Zagreb on Tuesday, he should be blunt that there will be no more assistance to Croatia until it curbs gangster politics in Mostar. Money has begun to talk as loudly as gunfire in the Balkans. In this most difficult of peacemaking tasks, that must be accounted progress.

A CUE MISSED

There is more to snooker than balls

We have long known that snooker players were potters of ball. Now we can confirm that they are potty of cue too. The primitive wooden implement by which balls are propelled, into pockets as deep as a schoolboy's, is for many players more than just a tool of the baize trade. For this guild, the cue is a thing of mystique and reverence and - if a piece of wood could ever be described in this mixed-metaphored-manner - a security blanket of blissful warmth.

On our sports pages today, we carry a report on how much their own cues mean to Britain's snooker players. The most famous of them all is Steve Davis, and his has also been the most famous broken cue in history. Snap, it went one day, by accident, and snap went his snooker form too. The man who has potted more titles than other, less-fortunate members of the fraternity of misspent youth imore titles, in fact, than any member history) has won not a single tournament for more than 12 months now. A tragic snap: clearly, also, an expensive one.

What puzzles observers, and rightly, is why such great store is set by so simple an Object. Is a snooker cue a work of complex traftsmanship, as a cricket bat is, or a hypernot. Do cues come in a perplexing variety of shapes, sizes, finishes, sheens and weights? No, again. So what, dear Davis, is all the fuss about?

Our out-of-form ex-whiz is not alone. Cuespotters (with or without anoraks) will remember the case of Stephen Hendry: for the sake of a lost cue that cost less than your humblest electric kettle (£20, if you must know), he offered an impassioned reward of £10,000. Mathematical readers of The Times will work out quickly that Hendry could have bought himself 500 cues for the sum. put up for his pet cue's restitution.

There are other cue stories ... too many, in fact, to be told at once in this column. What is clear, however, is that snooker is played as much in the mind as it is with a cue. Snooker, as a game, makes fewer technical demands on a player than many others. Of course a snooker player needs not to be colour-blind. But more than sumptuous skills, he needs a still head, still feet and sang froid - très, très froid. Snooker is a mind game and a lost cue, or one cruelly snapped, can sap morale in a way that those of us who do not play snooker will never understand. Or perhaps we understand only modern fibreglass tennis racker? Evidently too well: and leave the game firmly alone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Party unity on the countryside

From the Prime Minister. the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

Sir, In-1929, at the inception of the Council for the Protection of Rural England's appeal for public support. our forebears, Stanley Baldwin, J. Ramsay MacDonald and David Lloyd George, pledged their support for the English countryside in a letter to The Times. In the year of CPRE's seventieth anniversary, we are pleased to make that commitment again.

During the next few months we shall differ on so many problems of public importance that we gladly take the opportunity of showing that on one subject we speak with a united voice - namely, in advocating the protection of our countryside in its tich personality and character.

We do this in the full confidence that necessary development can and should be directed with thoughtful and scrupulous attention to the charm of our countryside. Much of its beauty is the direct result of man's activities in the past: and in these days when the objectives of planning and land management and the appreciation of land-scape are more widely shared than ever before, we ought to be able to make necessary changes in ways that avoid injuring our precious beritage.

We are, Sir. your obedient servants. JOHN MAJOR, TONY BLAIR.

PADDY ASHDOWN, As from the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Warwick House

25 Buckingham Palace Road, SWI. February 8

Role of civil servants

From Mr Hugh Colver

Sir, Mr M. G. Power's suggestions (letter, February 5) that Mr Michael Heseltine was wrong to ask civil servants to explain policy, and that anonymity is a virtue for civil servants, should not go unchallenged. It has long been the duty of the Government Information Service, in which I was privileged to serve for 17 years, to explain what they do.

Of course it is the job of ministers to

explain and advocate their policies and to demonstrate how those policies relate to a particular party political philosophy. Indeed this Government has suffered politically because ministers have not sought to gain maxiactivities:

However, it is nonsense to suggest that civil servants can never engage indialogue about policy because any public protagonism of a policy that may be anathema to an opposition political party would make it difficult to serve a government of a different

As a head of information in a gov-ernment department it is one's duty to serve ministers and to further the policies and objectives of the Government, even if those policies are surrounded by considerable political controversy. Of course, in so doing one is furthering the objectives of the political party in office — but that is perfectly proper. It is one of the benefits of political

In my experience ministers are very aware that they must not involve civil servants in any party political activity and government information officers are careful not to be dragged into par ty politics by so fierce an advocacy that misinterpretation is possible. This is sometimes a difficult line to draw, but ministers and government information officers are drawing it with great care and comparative ease

Of one thing we can be sure. Any future Labour government would expect to gain maximum advantage from the trappings of political office and would not understand a Civil Service - and particularly a government information service — that did not see it as its job to explain and promote government policy. Especially in the run-up to a general election, the Depu-ty Prime Minister was quite right to remind the Civil Service of its duty.

Yours sincerely, HUGH COLVER (Chief of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence, 1987-92; Director of Communications, Conservative Central Office, 1995), St Austell Road, SEI3. February 6.

Floral tributes From Mr Martin Horwood

Sir, I wonder how much unhappiness the bleak instruction, "No flowers, please", to be found in the Deaths columns, causes to friends and acquaintances (letters, February 1, 8).

Flowers are the one personal contribution that we can make to an otherwise formal, ritualised business. The cards accompanying them provide joy and solace to the bereaved family, the flowers themselves colour and celebration to the service, a lasting memory and some feeling of participation to those who attend. The next instruction

might be, "No tears, please". Pile my coffin with flowers, I say. It is sadly, the last thing that anyone can do for me in this "vale of tears".

Yours sincerely. MARTIN HORWOOD, Aldergate, Aldington Road, Lymone, Hythe, Kent.

Why heredity serves a useful purpose in the Lords

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, Mr Blair's intemperate attack on the hereditary peers (reports and lead-ing article, February S) shows that he has no sense of history and no realisation that the House of Lords is the most efficient and respected second chamber in the world. Under Mr Blair's rule the age of chivalry would certainly be gone, to be succeeded by the age of the common man with a

vengeance, with the powerful trade unions waiting in the wings.

I do not believe that this French-style revolutionary policy is what most British people want, who respect the hereditary peers and admire their patriotism and good manners. A partnominated, part-elected second chamber would be a recipe for disaster. As Lord Falkland said in 1641, if it is not necessary to change, it is necessary

Yours faithfully, JOHN STOKES, Conservative MP for Oldbury and Haiesowen, 1970-74, and Halesowen and Stourbridge, 1974-92), 4 The Bradburys, Stratton Audley, Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Peter Le Cheminant

Sir, The principle of replacing the her-editary House of Lords by an elected second chamber was clearly established by the Parliament Act of 1911. That Act expressed sorrow that "such substitution cannot be immediately brought into operation".

In the light of the ensuing 84 years' delay in carrying out the then Parliament's good intentions the worldly

wise will assume that the House of Commons is reluctant to share its untrammelled power with anyone. In this matter at least MPs will echo (and I suspect will go on echoing) St Augus-tine's prayer "Lord make me chaste, but not yet.

Yours etc. PETER LE CHEMINANT, 23 Weylea Avenue, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey. February 8.

From Mr Norman Chang

Sir. With an elected House of Commons, one is never quite sure as to whether or not MPs, when casting votes or when offering a Private Member's Bill for reading, are attempting to further their political careers or are conscious of possible deselection when their five-year fixed tenure expires at a general election.

Hereditary peers, on the other hand, invite no such suspicion of mo-tive. They have a life tenure and thus tend to be driven by principle and duty rather than political ambition.

Yours faithfully. NORMAN CHANG, Il Crogsland Road, NWI.

From Mr Ian Mann

Sir. Tony Blair may view the House of Lords as the ascendancy of heredity over democracy but this is to misinterpret its true value.

The overwhelming advantage of the hereditary peers is their initial self-selection by birth, that involuntary act of fate that comes to us all. The overwhelming disadvantage of the House

From Mr Christopher Maguire

Sir, Reading Chancellor Kohl's asser-

tion that the nation state's days are

over. I wondered what lessons he had

drawn from the disintegration of the

Soviet Union, the largest artificial fed-

eration of all, or from the separatist

conflicts in Chechenia, the former Yu-

goslavia, Aighanistan, Northern Ire-

land, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Kash-

'All these conflicts seem to me to re-

present a revolt, whether military or

political, by human groups with a

common history, customs and culture

against the imposition of a greater

union, which in practice has meant

oppressive central control and a cava-

lier disregard for their regional identi-

ty. Such aspirations are entirely differ-

ent from the expansionist conquests of

the historical nation state which Herr

Kohi presumably has in mind when

he refers to Germany's invasion of

If this interpretation is correct then

perhaps Britain and John Major are

far closer than Herr Kohl to the mood

of the age. It is the latter's vision of a

European federation with political

and monetary union — central control

Belgium in two world wars.

which has had its day.

15 Harston Road,

Newton, Cambridge.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER MAGUIRE,

mir, Indonesia, to name but a few.

tion by ego, that involuntary act of fate that comes to all politicians. As a consequence of this the House

of Commons may represent the people but, paradoxically, it is the House of Lords that is representative of the people.

Yours faithfully, LAN MANN. 55a Redcliffe Square, SW10. February 8.

From Lord Denham

Sir, You report Mr Tony Blair as asserting that the poll tax, "the most ex-pensive fiasco in fiscal history", would never have become law without the hereditary peers.

Under the Salisbury/Addison convention, agreed by all parties at the time of the Attlee government, the House of Lords does not reject at second reading a Bill that has been in the governing party's manifesto. This has since been extended to cover a genuine wrecking amendment, one which would have the effect of killing such a Bill without further discussion being possible. And this is what the amend-ment to clause 1 of the Local Government Finance Bill undoubtedly would have done.

It was this factor, even more than the strength of the whip that I sent out. that accounted for the size of the Tory vote on that occasion in 1988.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DENHAM (Conservative Whip, 1979-91), House of Lords.

Germany's views on the nation state

From the Duke of Devonshire

Sir, I write to express my alarm at the reaction in some quarters to Chancelfor Kohl's Leuven speech (report, February 3; letters, February 7). It would appear that the Chancellor is telling the world that, in spite of all he and his predecessors have said, his country has not changed its spots.

He implied that if Germany did not get its way over monetary, followed by political union in Europe there might be a return to force of arms - perhaps resulting in a future British Prime Minister bleating over the airwaves about some "far-away country of which we know little".

In spite of being defeated in two wars this century, modern Germany seems determined to hold sway over Europe, with a threat of aggression if it fails. Ever-closer European integration threatens the nation state - the natural state of affairs for a country. The time has come for us to stand

up for the individual rights of the countries within the European Community. The siren voices of those who might say that in the interests of peace Germany's views must be acceded to must be resisted.

Yours faithfully DEVONSHIRE. Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Rebruary 7.

Beating the weather

From Mr William J. Jory

Sir, Dr Stuttaford ("Medical briefing", February 7) rightly reminds drivers stuck in deep snow to wear adequate clothing and avoid alcohol, but it is worth re-emphasising his point about the need to keep the vehicle airway clear so that exhaust fumes can be dispersed.

As a visiting eye surgeon in northern Canada for many years, I was advised by long-distance truck drivers not to run the engine, since you may not realise if your exhaust becomes blocked by snow, which could lead to fatal carbon monoxide poisoning.

Better to carry a large candle (and matches). The lighting of candles gives off a surprising amount of hear and uses up a negligible amount of oxygen, provides a welcome boost to morale and enables would be rescribed. ers to find you. Sandbags, if possible over the driving wheels, can assist

One hopes your readers will not require the last piece of equipment. This is a good length of rope carried next to the driver to throw out of the window if one is caught in an avalanche. The

rope tends to snake to the surface of the snow, making detection and subsequent rescue easier.

Yours faithfully. WILLIAM JORY (Consultant eye surgeon), 21B Devonshire Place, Wl.

From Dr J. A. Collings-Wells

Sir, Dr Stuttaford recommends sacks be placed under the driving wheels of cars stuck in snow. Nearly 60 years ago my father taught me a far more effective method, learnt from his days on the mud roads of East Africa before the First World War.
Two lengths of chicken wire, each

3ft long by 1ft wide, placed under the driving wheels, provide a much better grip and work equally well in mud or This simple device has got me out of

trouble on very many occasions. In the sort of weather we are experiencing at the moment it can mean the difference between getting home or spending a night out.

Yours truly, JOHN COLLINGS-WELLS, Rivercroft, Undershore Road, Lymington, Hampshire.

A squirrel warning From Mrs J. R. Green

Sir, The plan to distribute poisoned

bait to grey squirrels in an attempt to preserve red squirrels (report and photograph, February 6) must alarm anyone who has watched what they can do with a bulk supply. For every item eaten, two or three may be buried. In our garden pigeons and tits retrieve them as soon as the squirrel moves off. Squirrels will bury nuts even when cats are around.

I hope steps will be taken on Anglesey to protect the rest of the wildlife. Yours faithfully, J. R. GREEN. Red Hall Villa,

Haughton-le-Skerne. Carlington, Co Durham. From Mr Andrew Harris

Sir, Surely the only justification for killing grey squirrels so as to encourage red ones is because we find the latter more attractive to look at I know

the grey squirrel is "alien", but I can't think of any reason why this should make us poison them. In any case, it would be impossible to exterminate them in this country - they are far too well established.

Environmentalists will no doubt counter it is a worthwhile exercise in its own right to preserve a species endangered in some parts of Britain; but why? Species have always come and gone, and man is powerless to intervene, except at the edges.

Yours sincerely, A. D. HARRIS, 10 Evertons Close, Droitwich, Worcester.

Business letters, page 25

Sports letters, page 35

Letters for publication may he found to ATTL702 Chic

Millennium events

From Mrs Penelope Lively

Sir, While welcoming the principle that the book is an appropriate subject for celebration at the millennium (Simon Jenkins, January 27; letter, February 6), I would suggest that the pro-per medium is the British Library the national archive.

The new building at St Pancras has had its problems but these are now largely overcome, and after its opening from 1997, it will be the natural focus for any such millennial celebration of the printed word.

I write as Chairman of the British Library's Centre for the Book, which exists to promote the significance of the book in all its forms.

Yours sincerely. PENELOPE LIVELY. February 6.

Pole position

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, The repositioning of the South Pole by Isin poses no serious threat to past explorers' claims to have reached it. Your report "Satellite technology moves South Pole to its true (sic) position" (February 8) also states that the technology used is only accurate to one yard. This would suggest that the old position and the new position are in fact the same place within this tol-

Yours faithfully. ALAN SMITH 35 Lansdell Road, Mitcham, Surrey. February 8.

S for serendipity

From Mr Hugh Douglas

Sir, Serendipity of the type Mrs Anne Tayler encountered in The Complete Guide to What's on Talking Tapes (letter, February 6) is enjoyed by all of us who research in libraries.

My favourite, in 30 years of re-searching, was in Mr Palmer's estimable index to your own newspaper published in the years before 1906. A report of a railway accident at Nottingham sometime during the last century was listed, not under R, A, or even N. but under H.

The headline of the story read "Horrible rail crash at Nottingham". It compensated for a week's frustrating failure to find the reference I was

Yours faithfully, HUGH DOUGLAS, 146 Broadway. Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

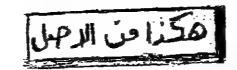
From Mr Daniel Lyon

Sir. Anne Tayler's index difficulties

are not a new phenomenon. Thirty years ago the council I then worked for had great difficulty in showing title to a piece of land in Blackpool Road, Preston, which it had bought some eighty years before. The massive hand-written property register appeared to show no trace of the deeds, despite what I thought had

been an exhaustive search. However, they were found instantly by my successor, whose thought processes more closely matched those of the Victorian filing clerk: I had naively searched under "B" for Blackpool Road, but he went straight to "P" for Piece of Land.

Yours faithfully, DAN LYON (Director of Administration), Test Valley Borough Council. Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road. Andover, Hampshire.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 8: Sir Kenneth Scott was received by The Queen this evening upon relinquishing his appointment as Deputy Private Secretary to Her Majesty.

Later The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at Dinner by the High Commissioner for New Zealand (His Excellency Mr John Collinge) at 43 Chelsea Square, London SW3.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Scots at War Trust, will attend a study seminar at Edin-burgh University's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Human-ities, Hope Park Square, Edin-burgh, at 9.30; and will visit the Lower Methil Heritage Centre. 272 High Street, Lower Methil, File. at

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Luncheon

Battl-Wallahs' Society Captain J.M. Gray, Master Mariner, was the principal guest and speaker at the 90th anniversary luncheon of the Batti-Wallahs National Liberal Club. Mr John D.G. White, president, was in the

Appointment

Mr David Tatham to be High Commissioner (non-resident) to The Maldives from March, in succession to Mr John Field who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Lectures

Royal Society Professor B. Roques delivered the Claude Bernard lecture to the Royal Society yesterday at 6 Carlton House Terrace. Dame Anne McLaren, FRS. Foreign Sec-retary of the society, presided. The Bristol Society
The High Sheriff of Avon, the Vice-

Chancellors of the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England and the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset were present at a Lecture given for the Bristol Society by the Bishop of Oxford at the Council House last night. Mr St John Hartnell, Chairman of the Society, presided and Mr Mark Molyneux of Ernst & Young gave the vote of thanks. Ernst & Young hosted a supper afterward.

Reception

Saddlers' Company Mr Richard Ling, Master of the Saddlers' Company, presented prizes to the winners in the Society of Master Saddlers annual saddlery competition at a reception held last night at Saddlers' Hall.

The winners were:
Class I, Mr Peter Husbands; Class 2
and best entry, saddle, Mr Jeremy
Rudge, Class 3, Mr Lee Jennings:
Classes 4.5.9 and best entry,
bridlework, Miss Lucy Barchelor;
Class 6, Miss Emma Eccles; Class 7,
Mr Johan Ulvede and Class 8, Ms
Chan State

Birthdays

Mr Norman Adams, painter and orramic sculptor, 69; the Countess of Alrlie, 63; Mr Brian Bennett, Shadows' drummer, 56; Mr Ryland Davies, tenor, 53; Air Commandant B.M. Ducat-Amos, former director, RAF Nursing Service. 75; Miss Mis Parrow actress, 51; Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 70; Mr Psul Flynn, MP, 61; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 47; Dr George Guest, organist, 72; Mr Justice Johnson, 63; Mr Ben E. King, singer, 54; Mr Sandy Lyle, golfer, 38: Sir Donald Miller, former chairman, ScottishPower, 69; Dame Annette Penhaligon, 50: Miss Amanda Roocroft, opera singer, 30. Professor M.J.H. Sterling, Vice-

Chancellor, Brunel University, 50: Mr Gordon Strachan, footballer, 39: Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 57: Mr Clive Swift, actor, 60: Mr Brian Wenham, media consultant and journalist, 59; Lord Williams

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Henry Harrison, 9th American President 1841, painter, Côte-St-André, France, Berkeley, Virginia, 1773; Edward Carson, 1st Baron Carson, lawyer and leader of the Irish Uniquist Party, Dublin, 1854; Anthony Hope (pseudonym of Sir Anthony Hope Hopkins), novelist, London, 1863: Mrs Patrick Campbell, ac tress, London, 1865; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1885; Jim Laker, cricketer, Bradford, 1922: Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1923.

DEATHS: John Hooper, Bishop of Worcester, burnt at the stake Gloucester. 1555: Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal Maskelyne. Astronomer Royal 1765-1811. Greenwich, 1811: Henry Gally Knight. architect and writer, London. 1846; Fyodor Dostoy-evsky. novelist. St Petersburg, 1881: painter. Côte-St-André, France, 1891; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, Wellington, New Zea-land, 1938; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Capri. 1952: Bill Haley, rock and roll singer, Harlingen. Texas, 1981; Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party 1982-

The first recorded race meeting in England was held at Roodee Fields, Chester, 1540. Lord Darnley, Consort of Mary Queen of Scots, was murdered in Edinburgh, 1567.

The British Government declared a state of emergency after a month-

Marriage

Mr M.A.A. Wanchope and Mrs G.S.R. de Wet The marriage took place in Kloof, Natal, on February 3, of Michael Wauchope, of Mayfield, East Sus-ser, and Glory de Wet, of Natal.

Memorial service Mr Richard Caldiost

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Richard Cuthbert Giles Caldicot, actor, was held yesterday at St Paul's Covent Garden. Canon John Oates, Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, and Chaplain to the Adelphi Theatre, officiated. Mr Jonathan Caldient-Bull.

read the lesson. Mr Frank Thornton paid tribute and Mr Alan Davis gave an address. Miss Liz Robertson, soprano, accompanied by Mr Chris Walker, piano, sang Loverly from My Fair Lady.

Dinners

Gardeners' Company
Mr D.E.F. Gollin, Master of the
Gardeners' Company, presided at
the livery and ladies' dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Mr I.B. Flamagan, Upper Warden, Alderman Sir Francis McWilliams and Mrs Cerilla Gerrard, Chairman of Surrey County Council also spoke.

European-Atlantic Group
Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP,
presided at a meeting of the
European-Atlantic Group held last
night at the House of Commons.
Mr Silvio Fagiolo, Italian Special
Representative in the European union Inter-Governmental Con-ierence Reflection Group, was the guest speaker. Later, Lord Dahrendorf, chairman of the group, presided at a dinner. Lord Judd, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP and Mr Charles Kennedy. MP. also

Church of Scotland

Ordinations & inductions
The Rev Relf H Biles to Shortless
Ellippingsont The Rev Ian Mellroy to Kirkmaiden The Rev Jam A Susperland to Lybeter

The Rev Bruce F Neill to Maxton with

Associate at St Andrew's & St George's, Ediaburgh to Kilmuir & Logic Easter.
The Rey Hugh Watt from Lockwood,
Glasgow, to Urquhart and
Classmootston. Glerimoriston.
The Rev Ada Younger from Garchamlock & Craigend East, Glasgow to Dennistour Central. gow to Giasgow.

The Rev John E Gisbey from Kirkmance. The Rev John Murrie from Kirkliston The Rev William Taylor from Buckle

University news

Glasgow Appointments

Professor Sandy Love to the Chair of Equine Clinical Studies. Professor Love was previously a Senior Lec-turer in the university's Department of Veterinary Medicine.

Professor Peter A. Kemp to the Chair of Housing & Urban Studies, Professor Kemp is presently Joseph Rowntree Professor of Housing Policy and Director of the Centre fo Housing Policy at the University of

York.

Professor Iwan N Turok to the Chair of Urban Economic Development from April 1. Professor Turok is presently Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Strathchyde.

Professor Staton Wheeler to the Cormack Chair of Civil Engineering. Professor Wheeler was previously a Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the University of Ordord.



Dave and Iris Smith - reliving the days when they courted on a Routemaster

Forty years on the buses

A COUPLE, who met and became engaged on a bus, relived their courtship yesterday by boarding an historic red London Routemaster. Dave Smith, 67, and his wife iris. 62, were making a commemorative journey 40 years after the most famous of the capital's buses first took to the road. Mr Smith was one of the original drivers on February 8, 1956. His wife said: "We met on a bus. I was a trainee conductress and he got on and tried to chat me up but I wasn't having any of it." The couple, from Slough, Berkshire, travelled from Victoria to Crystal Palace to celebrate the bus's birthday. Mr Smith said the Routemaster was revolutionary. "It was a dream to drive – it was just like riding a bike or driving a car. The smoothness was entirely different." Many are still in

service today.



500 that were totally refurbished four years ago

Latest wills

Mr John Lapworth Holt, of West Wittering, West Sussex, the boat designer, whose first great success was with the Merlin, the 14st matter after which he designed Upton Grey, Hampshire, the ear, nose and throat specialist, former consultant at St Mary's Hospital. London, a leading authority on throat cancer and a pioneer of racing yacht which he designed after the Second World War. He laryngeal surgery, left estate val-ued at £369,365 net. developed more than 40 class designs, including the Enterprise, Mirror Cadet, GPI4, Heron Hornet and Miracle, and more than

Marie Vera Steele, of South Normanton, Derbyshire, left es-tate valued at £1,095,946 net. tate valued at £1,095,946 net.
She left £111,000 and some effects to personal legaters, £10,000 each to the Retreat Mertall Nursing Home, York, Ordan, and Amnesy International British Section, £7,000 to the ENL, and £5,000 each to the ENL, and the £000 each to the ENL, and the Fall of Encircle Cancer Help Centre, Unicet, Cruse and the ENIE, and the residue equally between the Priends Trust, Eradional School of Fears Studie, the Cheshire Home, Alireton, the Hospiter Fund at Kings Mill Hospital, Suther in Asingled, Moltraghaussing, and Asingle Hospite, Chesterfield.

Other estates include (net, before Mrs Aileen Constant, of Redhill

E668.010. Surrey..... Mr Charles Edward Croom, of Ringmer, East Susser ___ 9677,861. Sarah Margaret Drake, of Guildford, Surrey 51,218,236. Mr James Cobbatt Featon, of York £1,983,464. Marie Gertrude Glover, of Crosby, Merseyside......... 5713,750. Mr Nicholas Metecka, of Don-caster, South Yorkshire... £600,187. Mr Harold Desmond Francis de Beynne-Sheen, of London WR, retired business executive£592,714. Mr Henry Beautoy Purcell, of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.R. Capora and Miss M.A. O'Brien The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Caporn, of Claygate, Surrey, and Marie, daughter of Mrs Sheila O'Brien and the late Mr J. O'Brien, of

Mr C. Carpenter The engagement is announced between Charles Carpenter, of New Canazin, Connecticut, and Greta Verdin; of Oxford. The marriage will take place in New Canaan, on May 5, 1996...

Mr P.N.S. Hanbury and Miss A. Samarine The engagement is amounced between Sam, son of Mr and Mrs. Peter Hambury, of West Harting, Hampshire, and Anrie, daughter of the late Mr Serge Samarine and of Mrs. Mary Samarine, of Co. December Lealand.

Mr C.P. Handy and Miss A.L. Stephe The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Profes-sor and Mrs Nicholas Handy, of Newnham, Cambridge, and Anna, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Richard Tarr, of Pullianu, London.

Mr J.W. May and Mrs L. Upton The engagement is announced between John, only son of the lase Mr William May and of Mrs Jean May, of East Peckham, Kent, and Lizette, younger daughter of Mr Ton van Tonder and the late Mrs Lake van Tonder, of Cape Town,

and Miss J.M. Quallington The engagement is announce between Matthew, elder son of A and Mrs N.J. Clark, of Winehau West Sussex, and Joanna, daug-ter of Mr and Mrs J. Quallingto of Cruckmeole, Shropshire.

Mr P.F.G. Robinson and Miss L.A. Smith The engagement is announce between Paul, elder son of Mr ar Mrs Roy Robinson, of Westo super-Mare, Avon, and Lorn elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Smith, of Roysto

Hertfordshire.

Mr S.J.L. Smith and Miss L.J. Cowlish The engagement took place Paris, on January 27, 1996, b ween Simon, elder son of Georg and Elizabeth Smith, of Camberia Surrey, and Lisz, elder daughter-John and Margaret Cowlishay also of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr C.J. Stopford and Miss FJ.W. Griffith and Miss F.J.W. Griffith
The engagement is announce
between Charles, elder son of M.
and Mrs R.C. Stopford, of Evenle;
Northamptonshire, and Fion;
younger daughter of Mrs S.J.
Alexander, of Medimenham
Buckinghamshire, and the late M.
P.W.C. Griffith. Mr N.M. Young

and Miss S.A. Bates The engagement is announced between Nicholas Michael, your gest son of Mr and Mrs Leonant Young, of Whitstable, Kent, ap-Sarah Ann, youngest daughtening the late Mr Denis Bates and a Mrs Nancy Bates, of Tonbridge Kent.

Light of the World shines out anew

BY JOHN SHAW

A VICTORIAN artistic masterpiece which has hong in St Paul's Cathedral since the turn of the century has left the building for conservation work in London

The study, a monumental version of The Light Of The World, the best-known reli-gious picture by William Holman Hunt, OM (1827-1910), survived the London Blitz without a scratch, but is now showing signs of age. It will be reinstalled for Whitsun. ...

The picture was inspired by the verse. "Behold I stand at the door and knock 2Revelation, iff, 3). It shows Christ in a garden at high carrying a lantern to show that He is the light of the world.

It took eight men to manocuvre the heavy 9ft by 5ft picture into Christle's which has advised on the restoration of the picture and its contemporary frame. The study was painted between 1901 and 1904, and the frame was also

designed by Fiolman Hunt. The conservation work was arranged by Martin Beisly, director of the firm's Victorian picture department, who no-ticed that the painting needed work after he bought two unsatisfactory postcard reproductions at the cathedral.

approached for advice by St Paul's version.

Paul's, and are delighted tha Hamish Dewar and Amok Wiggins and Sons, the frame restorers, have generously

agreed to work on it without

charge." Canon John Haliburton, o' St Paul's, said: "This picture has been here for almost a century, and is an icon. When it was taken down from the wall, a whole lot of pieces of paper fell out.

They were prayers people had said in front of the

painting and then tucked behind the frame. Some of them were quite old. I gathered them all up and put them in the prayer box and we will say a special prayer for these people in the cathedral."

The painting hung in th

south knave alse but is to b. rehung in the north transer when restoration is complete: Hamish Dewar, considere

to be one of the best restore of Victorian pictures London, said: The picture in good basic condition, but has had a lot of candle smok which comes out pretty black so there should be a very goo. colour change when the wor is finished."

Holman Hunt was one; the co-founders of the Pre-

Raphaelite Brotherhood, an the picture exists in thre versions; the first is at Kebl He said: Then I went to College, Oxford, the second is look at the picture and realised at Manchester City Art Gallery, and the third is the S

BMDS: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

£544_IR2 net.

250,000 of his designs can be found worldwide. He left estate valued at

Major General Alexander Martin

Ferrie, of Hove, East Sussex, Deputy Director of Medical Services United Kingdom Land Forces 1977-81, left estate valued at

Mr John Ferguson Stangeon, of

and your own apostage that will condemn you have a thing it is and how evil, to reject the Lord your God, to hold me in dread no known. ionger. Jeremisk 2 : 19 (RgH)

BIRTHS

Caroline and Peter Caroline and Peter are birth of Hannah Mary Common Property 201. CAMPBELL - On 24th January, to Maggie (nee Harding) and Dermot, a Laboute Laboute Carton.

CLOFE - Or Jackson) and Sarah (née Jackson) and Jonathan, a son. Matthew Jemes Laucefield. 1996, to Mary (née historingham-Euller) and lames a on. Fergia Daward

DAVIES - On January 26th, to Janet and Nell, of Groprody. S daughter, Neight Furn.

HARRAND-LINGUARD - Co 2nd February 1996 at Queen Charlotte's, to Susan and Maurica. a daughter Transport Peter Assess. 1

bottliff - On February Th. to Jame (née Van den Bergh) and Robert, a daughter, Poppy, a sister for Tamain and Lowells. HILL - On 17th Jamury 1996. In Madrid, to Pattle and Ann. & damping. Elect Lines.

PUBLIFY - On 31st James V. at The Portion House, to Virginie (nie Bathief) and Philippe, a beautiful daugster, Constance.

SEALÉ - On 5th February a St Thomas' Hospital, to Philippe (not flatherings) and Subart, a van December James, a brother for Chief. SMITH - On 6th February at Sales Mandeville Housins, Aviestary, to Bristons and

WINDERLL - On 2nd February in Virginia One Judge) and Serven, a son. Roger, a brother for Descriptions. WOODRUFF - Op 31st

SALL - On February 6th 1996, peacefully in Denham Manor Nursing Home. When he was 65 years with of the late Sensey 2016 of Carrier Crus. Francis of Fabrier Pacids Cherch on Friday 16th February at 1000m, fallowed by press creation. Cut Rowers only. b T. Epsesses & Son LM. 21 Bridge Street, Pinner. Middlesez.

21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middleser, Land Commun. On 7th Forwary, Land Commun. On 7th Forwary, Land Gardener, and 30, in Pilgrims Hospice, Cartherbury. Her Courses was infectious. Family flowers, donations to Pilgrims Hospice please. Pensan I 150. chandle Fibruary 14th, Wye Parish Church, then Barham Creassionium. Cremeterists.

MAY - Dr Michael Courses.

Controllent Anapphetist.

Courolinat Anasathetist, peacefully at Wycomabe Consul Hospita and 65 year, much loved hisbard of Sandra and father of Charlotte, Christopher, Alexander and Lucy-Pomeri service at Chikerns Crematorium, Amerikan Bucks, on Thursday, 18th February at 2.00 pm. No flowers by request but common it device to the Canon Research Pund Co Great Missenden Funder Strikes, 206 Heb Sand, Creat Missenden, Bucks, HP16 OBE.

HP16 OBE.

CARTER - Dorothy Louise (Boxty). widow of the late (W.S.). Carter on 4th Patrany 1996 and IR after a short libres. Cremelon look place at Westerleigh bies Brisis on 7th Patrany. Alexandra Margaret. Seminar of the late with late place at September of the late with late place at September 2 the late with late place at September 2 the late with late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late place at September 2 the late of the late Courch to less of Howers.

COURS SERTIN - "Secric"
his Cladre Many Header.
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his Cladre Many Header.
his Cladre Many Header.
his House with of Raigh, on
Petruary 7th studently in
her 100th year. Cremation
Service at Saliabury on
Wednesday February 14th at
1 pm. No flowers, but
donations. If desired, to
Alpheiners Disease Society.
2nd flowr, Cortan House, 10
Greencoal Place, London
5will 1PH.
COLLES - On Stn December

COLLIS - On 8th December CULLES - On Sin December 1988, pencefully at house in Ryda, Inte of Wight Buth Marie aged 66, late of B F Stavens and Brown of Commission, Description of

DEATHS CREEK - Violet died 6th

February ster a country

for wir of the law Donald

Creek, much loved and

forces, much loved and

forces, much loved and

sundanther of Jumphan,

Sophia, Alicia and Nanchan,

Funeral on Friday 16th

February at 1.50pm at 5th

Mary's

Church,

Twickenham, Family

Howers or densitions if

desired to Carter Research

Campaign c/o Fredk W.

Pate 71 Walter Hand, Cam

Lidwicz, Sarrey, A second

Warm bearted lady the will

be sully mined.

Choogon - On February
772, pencefully in Rive Care
Cantre, Charles Chryton of
Winchelsen. beloved
husband for 89 years of
Anne. One-time Sentor
Partner of Mapiles Treadaie.
Winchelsen Towa Clerk for
his years a famous house soon of the Charpe Ports.
Furnary 1-50 St Thomas
Church, Winchelsen of 5 pm.
Dominion if desired in The
Massorial Care Contre, Iteer RMLE 6/6 Etts Best 7-S.
Lif. 3 Ferry Road, Rys.

penerally on Fabruary 7th speed 65. Widow of Paul Drury, much bred matter of Johyon, and grandmother of Adrian and Charles. Puneral at St. James the Less. Nutler, Suspent on February 14th at 2pm., followed by cremation. Family flowers only places. Donastions to Action Research for the Cripoles Child of Paties 4 Scott. To Walshyng, Uchnied, Speed Tel. (01826) 763241.

FOSTER-BONE - Helen Waring (née Pratt), of Lerryn Consvell, Peaceinsly Helmans, Gree Cambell on Wednesday. The Petranty, Much loved with and sister, and heloved mother of Patience and Andrew Gould. Service at St. Mary's Church, Great Canfield, on Wednesday 14th February at 2 pm. Family howers only passed to the period of t

DEATHS in the Court forget below, on the February following an accident, and 47, belowed belowed the Court forget for the Court forget
HOLLARD - Recember of Julia and Sursh and grandmother of Max. died, a ged 76, peacardly in the Royal Front Hospital. Hampstead, on Pebruary 5th. Funstal at Golders Green Greenskrich West Chard at 11.30 am on Tousday, February 18th. Flowers and enquiries to the Funeral Director, J H Renyon. 9 Pend Street, NWS 1856.

Kenyan), Pencetuhy at hame of Limited, Ryes, Canada, on 7th February, dearth was fired of Carpa, nather of Carpana, nather william, Plers, Thomas, nather of Carpana,
LAMB - Pencerally on February 6th, aged 82 years. Watson, loving husband of Pucins, due to the of John. Joan and Susan. Super of John. Joan and Susan. Super-local to Justine. Meditary. Jordan and Jenson former Head Brevier and Director at John Smith Bruwery. Tadcastel. Funeral Service to he held of 8t Oswald's Church. Collingham on Tuesday February 13th at 1 pm... followed by private cremation. Family Sowers only piece. Douglatons in the topice. a plate will be provided in Church.

Henry Manghan "Bill" Lieves CS. CSE. DMC DE. late Royal Tauk Regiment, as Se Fathrony and St. peachtilly Affar a abort Barbara. Fether and grandfather and match loved by all his friends. Furneral as Lyujanders Church, near by an instruction reason of Lyminster Church, near Arundel at 1.30 pm Thursday 18th February, Pantily flowers only. Douglious to be Royal Tank Regional Sensoriest Func. Enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, Terretrus Road, Littleburgton, Somer. Ter (01903) 713939.

LOBERT - Christopher Leavest ded February 7th, after a long Elmon. He is purvived by his loving wills, children, and MACOONALD - John Jumes at Hallebane Grange, Hallebane on Oli Paterane 1996, apel 75 years, Plumes Survice at St. Mary's Parish Church, Haggians on Friday 16th February at 12 poor. Ho flowers by request.
Denstions for Remains Rands H desired to Enstruce Europe Relief Drive c/o Dr Caim Tourie, Brook Coffings, Smit Lange, Hellingly, Smit Sumer Mary 4820.

MOREAR Charles Shound Darby (Bunny). On Sth February 1996 at West Schiolt, Hespelai, Bury St Edmonds, in his 70th year. He will be greatly missed. Pungai at 8t Mary's Charte, Gestingham. on Monday. Gestingham, on Monday, 12th February, at Spin, No Severa please, but densition to Hardwick Ward, West Scattell, Hospital, Bany \$2 Estemade, \$505 202.

Gyell - June, on Wednesday Th February, aped 77. Yhdew of Richard Henry (mily) much leved mother of Josephan, Pacinel. Harrist and Nicholas and grandmother. Memorial Mass of St Many's Calopen Street, SW3 on Tuesday 15th February of 11.15 nm. Private cression. Fundy Envery only. retifies - buchait McLalin, beloved husband of Prodeste and son of the last Clara Percy Mitcheson. "Good Night Sweet Prince".

NAY - Persons tomor, or Wednesday 7th February, dearly used by Series and friends. Cremanies at South London Crematorium. Research SWIG at 4 per on Statemen 10th February, Dan allots, if wished, in presented Canada Research

1996, Ruthleen, at Hatther Lodge Nursing Home. Fem. and S. Danij hoved wife of the late German Minn. Julius and Litten and San, Julius and Litten and their banky, Michael and Lit and Under family. Private Sanctal.

anusures - On 7th Pdara-sty, peaceturly in Succepture. Philips (P.F.) aged 53 years, formerly of Uppingham School Hasband of the late Daphite. Pather of Dienn and Bill. grandfather of Kevin and Delia. Private family cr-mation. Memorial Service in Uppingham on date, in he associated.

SCHOTT - Erien aged 78, widow et Er Adolf Schatt and mother of Geoffrey, Brenda and Aliven, died searching on 7th Pebruary 1996 at the Edunial Marie Carte Centre in Hampstead after a thort illners. The cremation will make place on Monday Pebruary 12th at 10.30am at the Chillerns Cramatorium, Whitelden Lane, Amardum, Bucia, No Bowers Please, but if desired douations to Edenhall Murie Carte Centre, 11 Lymffagar Gardens, London NWS SNS.

STEVENSOR - Within James Leighten, M.C., on Pebruary 6th 1996, aged 82. Died sensorith, cheerful until the me. Leving husband of the me. Uvrien and select fitter to Mick and Jone and fether to Mack and Dener to Huch-loved grandfather to Jamis, Toby, Deniel, Holy and Ton, One of Her's true gentlemen; will be sadly missed. Funural service et All Saints Church, Talbot Hond, Holy state Church, Talbot Hond, Holy missed. Church, Talbot Hond, Holy missed. Church, Talbot Hond, Holy missed. Church, Talbot Hond, Holy missed. Biblists on 14th February, at 11.00 a.m. No flowers, Donations, if dealerd to The RAAF, Benevotest Fund c/o Cooking & Son, 190 Fortis Green Road, Lendon M10 SDU.

TREVELYAM. Sir George Lowthian Bt M.A. died beschully it home in also 900 year on 7th Pebruary 1996. Private teneral but a messacial calebration of his life will be amounted laier. No flowers but donations, it desired, either to the Other Tomain Messacial Trust or to The Edward Barusley Education Trust, of F.W. Jones and See, 30 Maries Place. Calipsenham SN15-3HF.

WHITING Elizabeth
Murparet (Beth/), peacefully
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WINDIAN - Pushe Joen.
Beloved wife of Frank.
nother of Rossmany, pets
and Caryl. Peacefully at
home on Thursday 6th
February Funeral on
Tuesday 13th February at
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fiswers, a densition to the
charity of your Colon.

YELDMAN - Osoffwy Finnsid Charles MBE, en 7th February 1996, aged 87 year. Leving semant of Daris Rose and davoted father and grandfather. Puneral at New Southquis. London at 11 ms on Thursday, 15th February. Family Roses only house, union, 16 west only house, to the control of the building of the control of the Union, may be sent to F. Upson & Sou Lie, 686 High Rosed, Tottenham, London N17 SAA.

FORMAL - OD ARMED 27th, penciloty of The Berney Sunley Home, Woking, Remisse Oxpo, man loved by relation and friends who knew her. Pencilot Wiking a John Committee Library Potrust 12th of 11mm. Pantily flowers only but the Burney to The REPACA if wished c/o Woking Funeral Service. Tel: O1455 772266.

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OBITUARIES

THE MOST REV DEREK WORLOCK

The Most Rev Derek Worlock, CH. Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, died yesterday from lung cancer aged 76. He was born on February 4, 1920:

he 52-year ecclesiastical career of Derek Worlock straddled the period of greatest upheaval and adjustment in the recent history of the Roman Catholic Church. Fortunately, most of it happened at a time when he was still young enough to adapt to it. himself. The successful adjustment of the English Catholic community to changed ocial mores owes as much to him as to iny man.

His remark in 1969 that avoidance of traception was "not the acid test of C. stianity", while irreproachably ortho-dox, nonetheless expressed an English attitude which scothed the handling of that divisive issue among Catholics in the decades ahead. Like Newman, Worlock was someone prepared to drink the Pope's health, but preferred to drink to con-

By far the greater part of his influence was exercised out of sight. Those who oblige others to compromise are themselves liable to be the target of others' frustrations, and Worlock sometimes felt the weight of that. He was inclined to depression, even a touch of paranoia. He was certainly more popular and liked, with by his flock and by those around him, than he seemed willing to allow;

Derek John Harford Worlock was born

in London, the son of parents, Captain Harford Worlock and Dora Worlock, who were both converts to the Roman Catholic faith. It was a lively and stimulating household, each parent taking an informed interest in the affairs of the day. His father was Conservative agent for the-Winchester constituency, where the family moved in 1929, and his mother believed in and worked for the emancipation of . women, particularly on the suffrage

question. Worlock was the only Roman Catholic pupil during his time at Winton House preparatory school. After his studies at St Edmund's College, Ware, he enrolled at the seminary at Allen Hall to train for the priesthood. His ordination was at Westminster Cathedral in June 1944, and his first appointment as a curate was to Our Lady of Victories, Kensington.

His discreet and conscientious manner had impressed the authorities at Allen Hall, who identified him as a potentially gifted administrator: possibly his father's example as an "organisation man" within the Tory party had shaped his operating style. Only a year after his ordination he was chosen to be private secretary to Cardinal Griffin, then in the early stages of his term as Archbishop of Westminster, and thus began Worlock's long association with the internal machinery of English Roman Catholic institutions.

He was made a monsignor at 29, a very early age, and served to the end of

Cardinal Griffin's life and throughout his successor's reign. On Cardinal Godfrey's death in 1963, Worlock remained to help to settle in Archbishop (later Cardinal) Heenan, but had clearly earned himself a more senior rank. As an obvious prepara-tion for the episcopacy, he was made parish priest of St Mary and St Michael in the East End of London, where he remai-

med for only just under two years but still made a considerable impression.

There he developed a surprising ministry for down-and-outs, and established a pastoral service for the Irish immigrants who sometimes arrived homeless and penniless at London railway stations. It is said that on his consecration as Bishop of Portsmouth in 1965, an elderly East Ead tramp turned up at the cathedral to be near to the "Father Worlock" who had

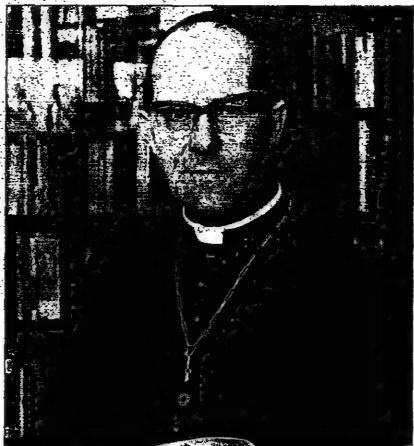
befriended him.

Worlock was, of all people, probably the most interestly involved in the English presence at the Second Vatican Council. both as the secretary to the English cardinals who successively took part and as a peritus, or official consultant, in which capacity he interested himself in. defining and developing the role and status of the Catholic laity. He is believed to have kept a detailed private diary of the council; it is plain that his close involvement in it greatly influenced his theological outlook.

The most immediate English product of the council was the setting up of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in place of the more ad hoc structure of the English hierarchy, and as Bishop of Portsmouth he was the ideal choice as its first episcopal secretary. He also became a consultor to the new Council of Laity in Rome, reflecting his earlier interest, and presided over the Laity Commission which the English bishops created soon afterwards. In that capacity he played the key role in handling the widespread and threatening outbreaks of dissent following the publi-cation in 1968 of Pope Paul VI's encyclical Humanae Vitag on birth control.

Torlock kept his bridges intact in all directions, including the London intellectual Roman Catholic scene where dissent was most outspoken and organised. His own view of the matter was unclear, though he had obvious human sympathies with married couples who found the Pope's teaching too extreme. He was helpful towards those of the younger clergy who found Humanae Vitae to be an acute challenge to their consciences. But there is nothing to suggest that Worlock was ever anything but completely loyal to the Pope's position. even if he might have wished it had been lifferently expressed.

His years at Portsmouth were successful locally, with unprecedented ecumenical co-operation and the projection of an image for the Roman Catholic Church in local political and civic affairs that was



well received. He took on a programme of renewal of the local church institutional life that was a model of how things could be done, with lay people closely involved in a structure of consultation at parish, deanery and diocesan level.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Hernan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incum-bents had left him with a reputation. unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors. More than anything else, this counted against him and he felt a sense of bitterness at what seemed to him to be a diocesan plot to keep him out.

But on the surprisingly adventurous appointment of the Abbot of Ampleforth, almost simultaneously with Worlock's own translation to Liverpool, he was splendidly loyal and supportive. When the newly consecrated Basil Hume led the Benedictine manks into Westminster Abbey for vespers on the evening of his installation at the cathedral - itself an ecumenical breakthrough few who were there will forget -- Worlock was conspicuously present, the most senior Catholic prelate in the abbey.

Liverpool archdiocese had been gov-erned benignly by Archbishop Beck but urgently needed repairs to its structural life before spiritual renewal could begin, and almost immediately upon his appointment the new archbishop tackled this vast and intractable problem. At the same time he took up an earlier acquaintance with David Sheppard, the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, which both men nurtured into a productive, indeed unique, friendship. Nowhere else in Britain was there to be seen a better relationship between two overlapping episcopal regimes, and Worlock benefited from Sheppard's insight into inner city life as Sheppard benefited from Worlock's insights into the mission of the Christian Church. Only in Liverpool could it be said that Pope John XXIII's exhortation "to do

ogether" was manifestly achieved. On Worlock's translation to Liverpool, it was a natural progression for him to move from the post of episcopal secretary of the national conference of bishops to being its vice-president. This maintained his fruitful relationship with Cardinal Hume, who became president at about the same time. They were close allies in several projects: the Liverpool National Pastoral Congress in 1980; the attempt to move the synod of bishops in Rome in a more liberal direction on marriage issues later the same year; and the visit of Pope John Paul II to Britain in 1982.

separately only those things we cannot do

The Liverpool congress was something of a triumph for the city's archbishop. He

supported the idea in its sometimes awkward gestation period, presided over the complex preparations, moved smoothly round behind the scenes while it was taking place, attending to the fine-tuning, and brought the bishops afterwards to the point where they could endorse, as their own strategy for the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, most of what the congress had asked for.

Later that year it fell to him to tell the Pope and other world leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, in public, that church discipline on divorce and remarriage was too severe. In the context, speaking to members of the international synod of hishops in Rome, it took some courage for Worlock to question the established line, particularly as the Pope was well known to hold strong and very

hough Worlock failed to achieve a public shift — in fact the Pope took what seemed to be an even more restrictive line in his re- Worlock was undoubtedly voicing a change in Catholic opinion.
What he urged was a "development" rather than a change, though on the key issue, the sinfulness of every act of contraceptive intercourse, development indeed meant change. In his own archdiocese, priests were given to understand that he would not criticise them if they used their own judgment: nor if they encouraged divorced and remarried Catholics, in the right circumstances, to receive Holy Communion. But he always made plain that he sought justification for such pastoral strategies in orthodox theological thinking; he was not a rebel, nor did he encourage the rebellious.

Worlock made great efforts to ensure that the Pope was very well briefed before visiting Britain in 1982, and the visit's striking success owed much to him. Even on the issue of Holy Communion for those in irregular marriages, the Pope's remarks seemed to convey a belated acknowledgement of the strength of the Worlock case. At least he did not explicitly condemn what he must have known the Archbishop of Liverpool was discreetly encouraging, emphasising compassion rather than law, Worlock's very point.

One of his small personal triumphs was to persuade the Vatican to allow the Pope to visit the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool, and the sudden spontaneous applause of that mixed but largely non-Catholic congregation was his reward. The moment is still remembered as a landmark in relations between the different churches of a city not until then known for a spirit of religious reconciliation.

His service to Liverpool in other ways was immense. At the time of the Toxteth riots Worlock made it his business, sometimes with David Sheppard and sometimes alone, to intercede with the police and with the black community. It was in the course of observing their conflict on the street first-hand that he was almost mown down by a charging police vehicle. Toxteth brought him close to Liverpool's many agonies as nothing had done before, and opened many doors to the Church which would otherwise have stayed locked.

Two football tragedies, Heysel and Hillsborough, brought massive grief and notoriety to Liverpool in the 1980s. After Liverpool fans rioted and many fans of the Italian club Juventus died in the ensuing clash. Worlock was crucial in the effort to heal relations between his city and Turin, which he visited afterwards with a civic

The Hillsborough disaster in 1989 brought one of the most extraordinary acts of Christian ministry of his, or indeed any, career. He visited the stadium in Sheffield where the deaths happened, then returned immediately to preside over Requiem Mass in his cathedral, broadcast live by radio and television. Spontaneously the cathedral itself was packed, and the street and open space outside became the focus of an extraordinary gathering of silent people, many of them young fans or parents of fans, all of them traumatised by their horror and

The occasion, and his words of comfort so widely broadcast, seemed to bring the very mercy of God to meet the city's sore needs. What he conveyed was his total participation in the suffering, which he deeply felt. The last barrier between the shy, intellectual middle-class southerner and this tough northern working-class city had come down. For all his other efforts for Merseyside, struggling to revive its economy, pushing the idea of the free port, opposing factory closures, in-terceding with ministers over the chaotic local government situation, he was never more truly Liverpool's Archbishop than when he stood by its bedsides and gravesides after Hillsborough. Although it came some years later, his highly unusual appointment, for a Catholic prelate, as a Companion of Honour in the New Year Honours of last December reflected in part the gratitude of the political world for the work he did at that time.

erek Worlock appeared to have continued the practice of keeping a diary at least until his final illness. It contained, he used to hint, some private glimpses of the Second Vatican Council at work. It would not be uncharacteristic if some of his observations were extremely candid. though in his lifetime he protected his more intimate thoughts and rarely confid-

ed in others. Worlock published a number of books. all except Better Together (1988), written with David Sheppard, devotional in tone. He edited two anthologies. Take One at Bedtime (1962) and Turn and Turn Again (1971). Each revealed him as a man not only of wide reading but as someone who himself possessed the ability to say profound things simply.

RONALD FLETCHER

Ronald Fletcher, radio broadcaster, died on February 6 aged 85. He was born on July 10, 1910.

RONALD FLETCHER was a BBC radio newsreader of the old school, the possessor of a well-modulated, light tenor reading voice which reminded one listener of a highly pol-ished walnut table. Had it not been for an unhappy twist of fate, he might have made a successful transition to television. Instead, he will be remembered; for presenting innumerable news bulletins and for reading the quotations on Radio 4's Quote ... Un-

quote for almost two decades. There was something of the ntleman amateur about Fleicher He was not overtly ambinous, and work was done to finance his real loves of horse-racing and golf. On one occasion in 1963 he caused a

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through the studios when he forgot his appointment at the microphone altogether (he was having breakfast), leaving flustered sub editor to read the 9am bulletin. There was, too, a little of the frustrated actor about him. He would occasionally suggest to Nigel Rees, the presenter of

Quote ... Unquote, that he try reading a certain quotation in. say, a cockney accent. Rees would dissuade him from such excesses: the whole point of the joke was that Hetcher. should sound like Fletcher.: The son of a chartered accountant, Ronald Fletcher

inherited wealth from his grandfather who owned coalmines in the North of England. After schooldays at Shrewsbury, he read English at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. But he devoted more attention to the racecourse than to the iambic pentameter, and was wave of hysteria to ripple sent down. The 1930s saw money but with a splendid



Fletcher fritter away his inheritance at the races, and in a string of failed business ventures. During the war he served in an anti-aircraft regiment, but he was not a natural

voice and great self-confidence, he joined the BBC. This was the late 1940s, and Fletcher was employed first on the Light Programme and then on the serious news bulletins of the old Home Service.

His fortunes improved dramatically when he joined up with the Canadian actor Bernard Braden, in 1950 Braden had launched his own radio series, Breakfast with Braden, followed by Bedtime with Braden. These were new, informal types of comedy show, and provided a showcase not only for glamorous personal-ities of the day, like Braden's wife Barbara Kelly, but for the. talents of young writers such as Frank Muir and Denis Norden.

Fletcher was invited to read the endpieces to the shows.
And while he could hardly be said to be a comedian in his own right - his announcements were written for him -

call 9171 481 4000.

Back in civilian life, with no

their success propelled him incidentally, to a new level of celebrity. Afterwards he was asked to read for all sorts of light entertainment shows. In the late 1960s Fletcher left

> the BBC's newsreading team in order to make a go of it in television. He appeared on Twice a Formight and on the new consumer programme Braden's Week. The latter ended abruptly in 1971, when Braden was sacked from the BBC after a row over his right to make commercials. Esther Rantzen, who had started as a researcher for Braden's show, stepped in and began to work on a new show

> > Life. Again, the show's producer thought it would be a good idea to use Fletcher to read the newspaper clippings, but because of an administra tive error it was Cyril Fletcher who was approached about the job and who went on make a long career on That's Life. Ronald Fletcher's last post was as the resident reader of

with a similiar formula, That's

quotations in Quote... Unquote. 1976-94. He was perfect for the job, capable of bringing a lump to the throat of a listener one moment, and of making him laugh the next, without ever losing that dignified tone of delivery.

He married his first wife
Terri in 1938. The marriage
ended in divorce in 1958, and

in 1959 he married Rita Dando. She survives him, together with their son and daughter, and the son and daughter of his first marriage. A SEARCH FOR GUY FAWKES. Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord

Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the

opening day of each Session. It is enacted by

House of Lords that, a few hours before Parliament meets, this high fonctionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that

no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to

Eight or nine Beefeaters in frills and rosettes, their officer, with his incongruous cucked hat, a few Marshakeen in tail coats

and tags, and square caps, with a Policeman or two to remind us of the century, made up

the Search party: whatever higher dignitaries

may have been present were lost in plain clothes. The Berfensers and Marshalmen and

Policemen having been provided with lan-terns, the procession walked through the

House of Lords, the Central Hall and the

House of Commons, and, turning in at a small side door, descended an iron ladder to the

ventilating chamber beneath the House of

Communs. This chamber and all the vaults are whitewashed and beautifully clean, and abound with ventilizing machinery. Here the

blow up the Three Estates ...

r inscribed upon the Journals of the

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL **BRIAN MADDEN**

Lientement-Colonel Brian Madden, DSO, died on January 13 aged 87. He was born on December I.

BRIAN MADDEN was sec ond-in-command of the 6th (territorial) Battalion The Black Watch when it arrived in Tunisia in 1943 and took over command when its CO was mortally wounded on April 12. He was awarded the DSO for the bravery and flair with which he then conducted a series of hard battles. These culminated in the final dash across the base of Cap Bon which brought the war in that theatre to an end on May 13.

Brian John George Madden was educated at Wellington.

from where he went to Sandhurst in 1927. His father had died of wounds sustained in 1915 while commanding the 1st Battalion The Irish Guards, and he spent much of his youth with his mother's family, the Macpherson Grants of Ballindalloch. Here he learnt of his ancestor, William Grant, who in 1725 had raised one of the independent companies from which The Black Watch was formed in 1739; he was commissioned into the regiment in 1928. Sent to India with the 1st Battalion he contracted a

tropical disease and, judged medically unfit to serve overseas, he resigned his commis-



sion. He rejoined on the

outbreak of war in 1939 and

was adjutant of the 6th Battal-

ion when it was evacuated from Dunkirk. He com-manded the battalion in Italy in 1944 and won plaudits for its performance at Cassino and afterwards. He was seriously wounded in July but he recovered to participate in the battle of the Rhine crossing in 1945. After VE-Day he was given command of the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, but

early in 1946 he persuaded the authorities to let him have back the 6th Black Watch, then in Greece, for the time remaining before its disbandment in June, after which he again retired from the Army. Madden was a supremely effective tactician and leader.

He had the incisive mind of the chess and bridge-playing mathematician he was. He had complete disregard for his personal safety and it was typical of his style of leadership that as the order to go into the attack at Cassino was awaited he was walking up and down among his men. unperturbed even when a shell splinter nicked his chin. This was not bravado, but his way of showing his men that he shared their dangers.

He was a man of great

humanity. He had no truck

with those who counted the "bag" of the enemy dead like so many brace of grouse. He felt as much compassion for their wives and mothers as for the families of British casualties. He spared no effort to win in battle, but he was deter-mined that war should not coarsen those who had to wage it. His own lifestyle verged on the austere; but though he himself had no taste for rumbustious and rude relaxation, he never begrudged others their fun. In 1948 he became assistant superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital, and later secre-tary of the St Helier group of

hospitals. He retired in 1974 and was then a governor of the Royal Star and Garter Home until 1984. In 1969 he had married an army widow, Mary Cummings. She died in 1989 and he is survived by a nephew and two stepchildren.

PERSONAL COLUMN FLIGHTS DTRECTORY ANNOUNCEMENTS OVERSEAS TRAVEL PLIGHTS



ON THIS DAY

February 9, 1872

With some occasional flippancy the writer describes a scene which is still part of the pageant of Parliament.

air which ascends to the Houses is filtered and regulated, and warmed and moistened, and otherwise made fit for legislators to breathe. Thermometers, anemometers, gauges, jets, whirligigs, and other contrivances are everywhere; but there is plenty of room to spare for a Guy Fawkes, for we walk through corridor after corridor clean and empty. The Marshalmen and Beefeaters, as in duty bound, take it all au serieux, and peer into air chambers and recesses as though they really expected to find at least a can of nitroglycerine. Down another ladder they descend 10 another ventilating chamber, into which air rushes through strained canvas, which ex-

cludes the smuts. The vaults are, as it were, in three decks, and a third steep iron ladder leads to the lowest Avernus, a descent not very easy. It would be odd indeed if the searchers lit upon so much as a conspiring rat, for the whole place has been lighted up beforehand, in order that the Beefeaters and their tail may know where to step. There are lower depths and darker corners, side cellars, and shut passages into which they do not look; and what may lurk there no one knows. In fact the rule seems to be on no account to search any spot which

might really hold a live conspirator.

This Search—it dates, we believe, from the time of Titus Oates—is purely a custom, for we are told that it is not, as taxpayers might apprehend, bolstered up by any fees to those concerned. It is a great, or rather a little, piece of nonsense: but there is, nevertheless, no doubt of the necessity of due and seasonable inspection of the cellars. The Clerkenwell explosion is enough to convince us of this, and we state a fact which, we believe, has never before been made public, when we say that in the Chartist days of 1848 the Home Office received information of a regularly planned Guy Fawkes' plot. A sewer was to be entered from the river, powder was to be placed in the drain already referred to as running directly under the Throne, and the British Constitution

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Public pay freeze hits nurses

■ The Government angered public-sector workers by restricting nurses to a national pay award of 2 per cent and cutting back awards to a million others.

Britain's 480,000 nurses were told they would have to rely on local bargaining to secure more than 2 per cent. The Government added to their anger by declining to follow last year's practice of setting a target that nurses should be able to _Pages 1, 8 win from hospitals....

Party leaders go to the country

■ The leaders of the main parties have jointly written to The Times to express support for the protection of the countryside. John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, echo the language of a similar letter on May 8, 1929, signed by Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald and Lloyd George, Pages 1, 17

Hindley plea

Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer, should be considered for transfer to an open prison after serving 30 years in a succession of high and medium security jails, says the Parole Board Page I

Dearer prescriptions

Prescription charges are to rise by 25p to £5.50p from April, an increase of nearly 5 per cent, the Government announced... Page i Benefits storm

A political storm crupted over Government plans to cut social security running costs by 25 per cent, with predictions that up to 20,000 jobs would go Page 2

Actress's triumph

Josie Lawrence, the comedian who began her career in workingmen's clubs, has won an award for her Kate in The Taming of the ..Page 3 Shrew

\$1,000,000 question

Joan Collins took a verbal mauling in the witness stand in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance that is at the root of the dispute.... ..Page 3

Canoe man freed

The managing director of an activities centre, jailed for the manslaughter of the four young victims of the Lyme Bay canoeing disaster, is to be freed Page 5

Media group

Two peers from opposites sides of the political spectrum announced a merger that will create one of Britain's most powerful media conglomeratesPage 6

Euro award

A republican activist, who was jailed for eight years for his part in helping to falsely imprison an RUC informer, was awarded £15,000 costs by European Union human rights judges...... Page 9

Calmer waters

The Pope's Latin American tour is helping to erase ugly memories of his first visit to the region in 1983. when Central America was torn by civil wars...Page 10

Nuclear sale

Tensions between China and the United States escalated with revelations that Peking has sold nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan... ...Page 11

Kohi under attack

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was attacked in parliament after the announcement that the number of unemployed was well over the important four million

Pig issue

Republican hopeful Pat Buchanan is riding high on the hog in lowa. He rarely misses the opportunity to play to a local audience, and pigs are a big issue in the

Tory hopeful takes to the air

Young Tory bloods will stop at nothing to win the a Commons seat. But lew spend £1,000 to hire a helicopter to beat the driving snow and appear before two selection meetings during the same evening. John Bercow, special adviser to Virginia Bottomley, did that when he was invited to meetings at Surrey Heath, and Buckingham.



The Prince of Wales being shown around Dubrovnik to see how war damage in the Croatian resort is being repaired. Page 12

Shares probe: The London Stock Exchange is examining trades in shares of United News & Media and MAI ahead of the merger announcement which came the day after United shares rose 29p to 624p...

Ametrad payout: The electronics company, whose largest single shareholder is chairman Alan Sugar, has increased the dividend despite incurring a £5.4 million first

Lloyd's debt cap: Names are expected to have their debt capped at Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 17.1 to

3,708.4. The pound fell .22 cents to \$1.5363 and .48 pfennigs to DM2.2680, with the index closing

Cricket: Dominic Cork, England's principal strike howler, left the field with a damaged knee during a World Cup practice match in La-

injury-list. Football: Ilie Dumitrescu, of Romania, and Marc Hottiger, of Switzerland, have been refused renewal of their work permits after switching clubs in England Page 40

hore and joined Robin Smith on the

Rugby union: Mike Catt, the England full back, has been left out of the Bath side to play Wakefield in the Pilkington Cup. He will play for the second team...

Snooker: Andy Hicks, attempting to become the first wild-card entrant to win the Benson and Hedges Masters, reached the semi-

After the scrum: David Storey's evocative play about a rugby-league team. The Changing Room, has been superbly revived in the West End; while in Liverpool a drama explores Tommy Cooper's

Cézanne of the day: Richard Cork explains the masterly allure of Still Life with Apples, painted in ..Page 29

'Aide' beliet: The Royal Ballet has premiered Dances with Death, a new ballet on the subject of the Aids Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on

new albums from The Bluetones and the group 3T, a trio of Michael Jackson's nephéws; Caitlin Moran on Audioweb; reviews of Nick Heyward and Cleo Eaine Page 31

IN THE TIMES

songs to swoon by, and

50 copies of his Pas-

cuddly. Plus. Paris,

the lovers' guide

PASSION

José Carreras on

Selling children: Hundreds of Ukramian babies may have been stolen and sent abroad to be sold for adoption...

Valerie Grove interviews David Storey - once a man of brawn and brain, not adverse to biffing theatre critics - whose play. The Changing Room, has been revived at the Duke of York's Page 15

Tasty subject: Where once organic food was considered cranky, it is now smart to eat food untampered by the hand of science Page 15

Political optione: Education will be a central issue in the next general election but how will this affect independent schools? Page 33

Testing the difference: Are tests for primary schools a good idea? Two

The behaviour of the Zagreb Government is a scandal despite all of its promises it is tolerating and projecting the Groatian gangs in Magaz who threatened the life of Hans Koschnick, the European Union representative. The rioters felt that they had the unspoken support of President Tudiman. The authoritarian leader allows himself to be hailed as an angel of peace in Dayton but in reality he has been sabotaging the stabilisation process - General-Anweiger, Boom

Preview: Chris Evans hosts an early evening show of music and guests. T.F.I. Friday (Channel 4) opm). Review: Matthew Bond enjoys half an hour in the company of Derek Hatton

Three countrymen

The English character may be suburban but its roots are rural. Those roots require nurturing, not just casual neglect and the occasional agreement to agree Page 17

The Mostar test

If Mostar and Sarajevo become Balkan Berlins, permanently div so ed, all bets are off for lasting proper in Bosnia Paris in Bosnia

A cue missed

Snooker is a mind game and a lost cue, or one cruelly snapped, can sap morale in a way that those of us who do not play snooker will never understand. Or perhaps we understand only too well: and leave the

BERNARD LEVIN

I don't care much about Marrix Churchill, but I follow it not because of the depressing details. nor because I am looking forward to Scott's bag of toffice applies, but because it tells me as clearly as Big Ben that the Scott report is yet another nail in the coffin of this putrid Government Page 16 MAGNUS LINKLATER

Professor Gianni Angelini, an Italian who is now a top heart surgeon in this country, says that his experience, Britain is the most open society in Europe......Page 16 PHILIP HOWARD

The language prescriptivists find themselves growing older in a new world, surrounded by new ideas. new words, new grammar, new fashions, and younger tivals even for the low trade of old-forcy

CBITUAR

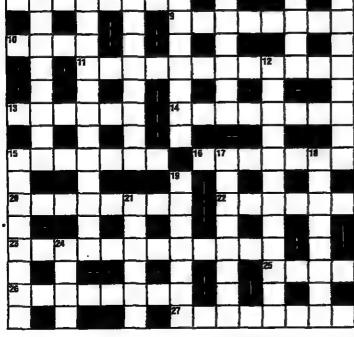
The Most Rev Derek Warlock Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool; Ronald Fletcher, radio. broadcaster, Lieutenant Colonel

Party leaders unite to protect rural heritage; heredity and the Lord Germanys' views on nation: beating the snow..

v. 100

Wind spe (mph)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,086



ACROSS

- 1 Pull back space is place reserved for officers (8).
- 9 A spiel about endless money could get one hooked (8). 10 Tree with sap acceptable to
- people? Just the opposite (4). 11 Courted lover runs away from
- writer (2-10). 13 As joke, clear basket (6).
- 14 Understand place to eat is within one's reach (8).
- 15 Judge in Israel had robe altered
- 16 State team captain initially an American (7).
- 20 Falls, having a problem seeing (8). # 22 Indian poet volunteers to shed
 - Solution to Puzzle No 20,085
 - DEPTS ASPERS A I E N R E Ingalow buesed

- 23 How one might get musical work? (12).
- 25 Type of rain-drop? Sort of (4).
- 26 Pessimistic image on film (8).
- 27 Terrified of daughter going to university (8).

DOWN

2 Hand this round? (8).

Princess Ida (8).

start here? (7-5).

- 3 Unhappy party with son getting drunk in the early hours (12). 4 Rate poet badly for work such as
- 5 Manipulation required to provide service on time (7).
- 6 Dismiss spy after uprising (3.3). 7 Very small penalty (4).
- 8 Get to know about article made of skin (8). 12 Art committee can make a fresh
- 15 Degraded rebel sunk in depression (8).
- 17 Mix up in executing star shape (8). 18 Wearing down? An undergarment's best puiled up! (8).
- 19 Puzzled out, in a particular way 21 Where in Ireland to get a new
- haircut? (6). 24 Star appearing in representative game (4).

TIMES WEATHERCALE

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FLIGHT SAVERS LONDON TO

COPENHAGEN. HAMBURG, MILAN, NICE OR ZURICH hane Ak UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent Al majo credit cards accepted. Subject b

sion CD to be won ROMANCE Valentine's gifts: the good, the bad and the

Turning brighter with sunsbine and blustery showers. Wind southwest, strong to gale. Mex 8C (46F).

I E, W Midlanda, Central N England: Rain cleaning then mainly dry. Some sunshine. Wind south, strong. Max 7C (45F).

I Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Ortoney, Shetland: Vary windy. Sleet and snow at General: Much of England and Wales will have a wet and windy start to the day. Over northern England any snow across the hills will soon turn to rain, with a thew setting in generally. Brighter weather will spread from the west, although some heavy, blustery

showers are likely mainly in wester and southern areas. Northern Ireland and Scotland will Northern ireland and Scotland will have a very windy and mainly cloudy day. There will be further snow over the Scotlish mountains giving bitz-zards in the strong winds. Across Northern Ireland and the lower ground of western Scotland, rain or sleet is more likely as it turns less cold. land: Very windy. Sleet and snow at times, with blizzards in the mountains. Wind southeast, gale. Mex 4C (39F).

London, SE, NE, E England, E Anglia, Bordens: Wet and windy start Brighter later with showers. Wind south, strong. Max 7C (45F). ☐ Central S, SW, NW England, Chaznel Isles, Wales, Lake Dis-trict, lake of Man: Windy. Early rain.

Wind southeast, gala. Max 4C (39F).

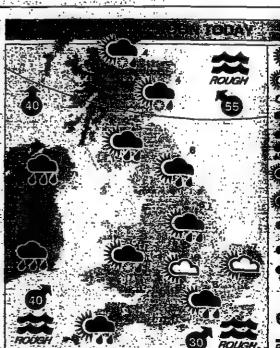
SW, NW Scotland; Glasgow, Argyli: Very windy. Rain at times but snow on hills, heavy and persistent in places. Wind south, strong to gale force. Max 8C (43F).

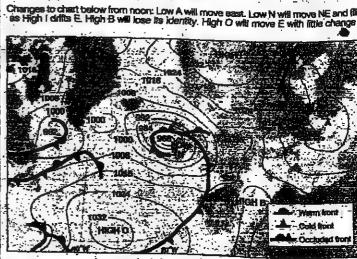
N Ireland: Windy. Mostly cloudy. Rain at times. Wind south to southwest, strong to gale. Max 7C (45F).

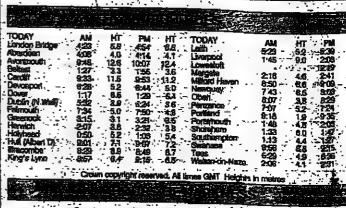
Outlook: Showers in meny areas. Mainly cloudy with snow in northern. Mainly cloudy with snow in northern Scotland.

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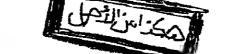
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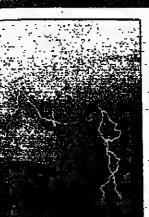




London 5.03 pm to 7.25 am



BOOKS



Libby Purves and the weird side of the weather

Page 13

PLUS: Andrew Roberts on the NCR jury, page 12





Romance ratings for Valentine presents Page 7

PLUS: shopping in style in Paris, page 8



The quest to create 1,000 village greens Page 15

PLUS: a sailor and his engine, page 15



Paris: dreamy days in the city of love Pages 18, 19

PLUS: a honeymoon relived, page 17

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 1996

HOW TO HIT A PUBLISHER FOR MILLIONS



our million bucks for two books!" exclaimed an elderly man in a corridor outside the Manhattan court where Joan Collins this week entered a legal battle with her publisher. The old New Yorker whistled in wonder: "Who does she think she is?

Shakespeare?" The case of Random House (UK) & Random House Inc v. Gemini Star Produc-tions Ltd & Joan Collins has blown the bonnet nons Lio & Joan Comms has blown the boliner of the publishing world. Book commissioning and editing, once seen as cardigan-and cocoa occupations, have been unveiled as sometimes that includes the includes that includes the includes that includes the includes that includes the includes that includes the includes that includes the includes that includes the includes

complex, brutal, zappy affairs. Thanks to Joan Collins we have seen the big-cigar decisions modern publishers take, the highly complex discussions which must take place before a word of a novel is written.

Miss Collins, less acclaimed as a writer than her sister Jackie, was offered \$4 million (about £2.6 million) not because she could turn a pretty sub-clause but because she is a movie star: People know her. Aged 62, she still exudes that ineffable fragrance of eau de

By Quentin Letts

south of Manhattan's Chinatown was an event in itself. When she alighted from her car she flashed her teeth and let her earrings glint under the flashbulbs of the paparazzi. Summoning her thespian powers she de-clared that Random House had been — a swallow for dramatic effect — had been, well, "cruel". She claimed to be speaking up "for many other authors" and voiced her confident expectation of victory.

It was superstar stuff but little else would

do. Random House, one of the great powers of publishing, is peeved to a high degree. It is dissatisfied with the manuscript Miss Collins delivered for one of the books, A Ruling Passion, she agreed to write for \$4 million. and it wants the return of \$1.2 million it paid as an advance. The court heard the Collins prose described as "very primitive, dated. dull, clichéd". She is countersuing for the balance of the \$4 million, arguing that it is no matter whether the work was dreadful or not. What matters is that it was a "complete" manuscript, as demanded in her contract.

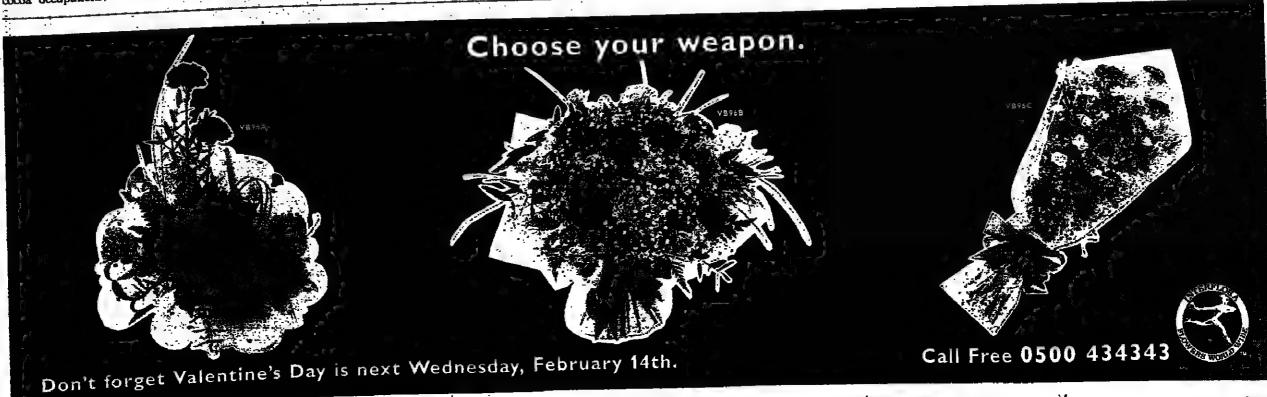
Despite the vast sums she was receiving,

Miss Collins expected detailed attention from her editors. Her lawyer, Kenneth Burrows, said that she was accustomed to intensive "face-to-face, line-by-line, page-by-page" edi-

torial help. It was not given.

This sort of assistance is the norm for celebrity authors. Lord Archer takes close advice from experienced book editors when composing his commercial masterpieces. The routine is exhausting. Editors suggest alterations, help the author to improve descriptive passages, make dialogue more convincing.

Continued on page 3, col 1



Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Wagner is no longer as central to the operatic repertory in London as once he was - a combination. perhaps, of changing tastes and managements unable to afford overtime payments - so Wagnerites will leap upon the English National Opera's new staging of his obsessional love-equals-death drama, sung in Andrew Porter's English translation. David Alden, a dab hand at operatic obsession, directs, with designs by Ian (An Inspector Calls) MacNeil, and the cast is led by Elizabeth Connell and George Gray, singing their roles on stage for the first time. Mark Elder conducts: a guarantee of top musical quality.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane,
London WC2 (0171-632 8000), to-

SAMSON ET DALILA Another, more succinct glance at erotic obsession, though Saint-Saëns wrong-foots you for the first 20 minutes by pretending it is an oratorio. There is nothing oratorio-like about Jacques Delacote's bra-zen conducting when the juices start to flow, and there is shamelessly grand-operatic singing from Markella Hatziano and José Cura in the latest Covent Garden revival. The Bacchanale is just the job for tired businessmen, loo. Royal Opera House, Bow St. London WC2 (0171-304 4000), to-night, 7pm; Thur 15, 7.30pm.

day, 4pm: Wed 14, 5pm. 🔕

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BIRMINGHAM PREMIERE Nothing less than an "introduction to the world" is attempted in a new piece by Sally Beamish. The piece, A Book of Seasons is dedicated to the composer's new-born daughter. and will be premiered by the everenterprising Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and the evocatively named BEAST (Birmingham Electro Acoustic Sound Theatre) next Friday, in a concert that also includes music by Oliver Knussen, Judith Weir, Jonathan Harvey, Boulez and Stravinsky. "Ever heard anyone argue that all modern music sounds the same?" asks Weir. "This is the concert that

Adrian Boult Hall. Paradise Place, Birmingham (0121-605 6666). Fri 16, 7.30pm. 🔕

PIANISTS' WORK Plenty of twinkling fingers at the keyboard this week. Jack Gibbons gives only the second performance in history of Alkan's stupendously difficult 12 Etudes. Op 39 (Queen Elizabeth



Jack Gibbons plays Alkan at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hall, Thur 15, 7pm). András Schiff opens his Bartok and Haydn series at the Wigmore Hall (Mon 12. Wed 14. next Sat 17. 7.30pm). And tomorrow, at the Barbican, sparks will fly as Nikolal Demidenko tackles a Chopin and Schumann

programme. Lucky the city that can boast such an array of pianistic riches in the same week. Let's hope they all get the audiences they

Queen Elizabeth Hall. South Bank. London SEI (0171-960 4242); Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St. London WI (0171-935 2141); Barbican, Silk St. London EC2 (5) (0171-638 8891).

ROCK

David Sinclair

ETERNAL Comfortably lodged in the Top 30 with their second album. Power of a Woman, and nominated for Best British Dance Act in next week's Brit Awards, Eternal step out for their first dates here since slimming down to a trio. Although their music is modelled on the American sound and style. they are a formidable homegrown talent in a field that has traditionally lacked a strong British presence. A "spectacular" new show is promised, incorporating a full live band,

ised, incorporating a full live band, backing singers and dancers.
Guildhall, Portsmouth (01705 824355), Feb 15: Bournemouth International Centre (01902 297297). Feb 16: St David's Hall, Cardiff (01222 878444), Feb 17.
Also Wolverhampton, York, Nottingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh. Glasgow, Aberdeen, Manchester, Sheffield, Cambridge, Bristol. Cambridge, Bristol, Wembley, Belfast and Croydon,

BABYLON ZOO A musical amal-gamation of David Bowie and Suede adapted for the post-grunge era, Spaceman has become one of the fastest-selling British singles ever. But the band's identity con-ceals the fact that Babylon Zoo's debut album was played and recorded in its entirely by singer and songwriter Jas Mann. He clearly has a lot of theatrical flair, but will the boy with the X-ray eyes

— and his henchmen — now be able to cut the mustard as a live act? London Astoria 2, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 16.

- TENTE

Benedict Nightingale

STANLEY Stanley Spencer's first wife sacrificed herself totally for him, his second grabbed what she could get from an "oik" she openly despised, while he floundered between the two, like a sticky-fingered child baffled by the grown-ups. Antony Sher, a bedraggled gnome specs, gives a meticulous, furnny and moving performance in Pam Gems's play, which is both an intelligent portrait of the peculiar loves of an important modern painter and a study of female archetypes in action.

Cottesloe, National, South Bank, London SEI (0171-928 2252). Evenings: Mon 12 to Thur 15, 7.30pm: matinée: Tues 13, 2.30pm. Continues in repertoire.

VALLEY SONG The joy of Athol Fugard's first post-apartheid play is that the author himself is onstage, a tiny, bearded figure playing both a writer seeking sanctuary from the urban hubbub and an old farmer afraid of eviction. Social and political change puzzles and worries both men, but for the other character, a 17-year-old Cape Coloured, it represents the chance of escaping the rural outback and fulfilling her dreams in the big city. Out of all this comes a ruminative, questionine piece which gently suggests that South Africa's future may not be altogether easy.

Royal Court. Sloane Square, PAUL CEZANNE For the first London SWI (0171-730 1745). Evetime in decades, the totality of nings: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinees: Thur 15. 3pm, Sat 17. 3.30pm.

José Cura brings grand-operatic singing to Covent Garden in Saint-Saëns's Samson et Dalila (see Opera) Arriving at the Tate Gallery after his triumphant season at the Grand Palais in Paris, the Master of Aix looks magnificent. His early paintings are turbulent, erratic and

often violent. But they are already



Tête à Tate: self-portrait of the artist Cezanne, circa 1866

charged with enormous vitality, and after 1880 Cézanne learns how to channel all that fervent emotion into an art of overwhelming grandeur. He turns from Romantic Cezanne's awesome achievement is excess to Classical discipline. But revealed in a great exhibition. there is nothing dry or excessively

calculated about his later work. The firmness with which he structures his figures, landscapes and still lives is seasoned with sensual power. An unmissable show, filled with awesome and delectable work which amply repays hard, concentrated looking.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SWI (0171-887 8000), until April 28 (for tickets ring First Call on 0990

The Bank Fare

John Percival

SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE Neville Campbell, who formerly ran the Phoenix Dance Company. might seem an appropriate director for this new group arising from the ashes of the Dundee Rep Dance Company. Six dancers in four works make up their opening programme, to which Campbell gives the title Human Tales as an indication of where his interests lie. They begin in Edinburgh before a two month tour.

St Brides Centre, Edinburgh (0131-346 1405), Thur 15 to Sat 17, 7,30pm; Dundee Rep Theatre (01382 223530). Feb 19-20; Dovecot Arts

Centre, Stockton-on-Tees (01642) 611625) Mar 1; The Place Theatre. London (0171-387 0031). Mar 8, 9. Also Liverpool, Bury, Inverness. Kircaldy, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Stir-ling. Cumbernauld and Paisley (details 01382 229500).

CINDERELLA Michael Corder has created a new Cinderella to Prokofiev's music for English National Ballet. David Walker is the designer. Corder, who began his dancing and choreographic career at Covent Garden, has worked abroad lately; this is his first full evening work to be seen in Britain. evening work to be seen in Britain.

The Mayflower, Southampton (01703 711811). Wed 14 to Sat 17, 7.30pm; matinées: Thur 15, Sat 17, 2.30pm; Palace Theatre, Marchester (0161-242 2503). Feb 19 to 24; Bristol Hippodrome (0117 929 9444). Feb 26 to Mar 2; London Coliseum (0171-632 8300). Mar 25 to 77. 25 to 27.

and the same

Geoff Brown

A LITTLE PRINCESS (U): A gorgeous family film that even improves on The Secret Garden. another Frances Hodgson Burnett novel recently remade for the screen. The powers of imagination are central to the tale of the "little princess", an English officer's daughter left in a New York boarding school while he fights in the First World War. They also sustain the director, Alfonso Cuaron. This relatively untried Mexican shows uncommon mastery of the Hollywood machine; and his players, none starry names, never succumb to saccharine sweetness or heavy caricature. Liesel Matthews is the girl plunged from riches to rags, and Eleanor Bron the malevolent headmistress who tries to outlaw make-believe. who tries to outlaw make-believe.

MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096);

Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148); Trocadero (10171-434 0031);

UCI Whiteleys (10171-434 0332);

Warner (10171-437 43433); Watermans (0181-568 1176).

WITHNAIL & I (15): Bruce Robinson's cult comedy about two wouldbe actors at the end of the 1960s. enduring a miserable break in the Lake District, returns to the screen on its tenth anniversary. The film casts a beady eye on 1960s follies, and observes its characters with loving care. Paul McGann takes the role of "I", the beams and taxocount structure in the comment of the control of t innocent struggling to escape from the advances of Withnail's uncle (Richard Griffiths). But this is GIBRIES SHOW, HIS Withnail is outrageously selfcentred, an endless fountain of caustic remarks; and his black bile

keeps the film alive.

MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370) 2636), Shafteshury Avenue (0171---.836 6279); Ritzy (0171-737 2121).

John Russell Taylor

THE SILVER OF SAN LORENZO

Of all materials, silver has tended to be most inextricably harnessed to the past, and traditional ideas of how it should be used in design. The Italians, naturally, have other ideas. The studio of San Lorenzo was set up in 1970 specifically to pitchfork sterling silver design into the late 20th century, in line with new Italian design in plastics and more basic metals. The show at the Victoria and Albert Museum gives a very fair idea of the results. A number of leading Italian designers in other spheres were recruited. and so here we have cutlery by Afra and Tobia Scarpa, tableware by Franco Albini and Franca Helg. and an "endless bracelet" by Leila and Massimo Vignelli. All impec-cably clean-lined, direct, stylish

and usable. Where else but in Italy? Victoria and Albert Museum. Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 \$441). Mon 12, noon-5.50pm: Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm. until April 30. 👸

WHITEFRIARS GLASS The glass factory of James Powell & Sons first opened in 1834. During the first century of its existence it was associated primarily with the nascent Arts and Crafts movement and worked with William Morris. selling through Liberty and Tiffany among other outlets. In 1923 the company went through a revolution and embraced modernism wholeheartedly. The best-known product was a series of streaky. cloudy, richly coloured pieces. Postwar, the company tended more towards the crisp simplicities of Scandinavian modern. The factory closed in 1980, and its work has since been neglected. This show, and an authoritative book, edited by Lesley Jackson, the curator, should help to redress the balance. City Art Galleries. Mosley Street, Manchester (0161-236 5244), Mon. 11am-5.30pm; Tues-Sat, 10am-5.30pm; Sun, 2-5.30pm, until June 30, then at the Museum of London in a reduced form.

WZ

Clive Davis

MARI WILSON In those far-off, easy-living days of the early 1980s. Mari Wilson's beehive hair-do and her tribute to Julie London on Cry Me a River earned her cult status in the clubs of London. What dazzling insights could that post-modern guru Peter York have conjured from her kitsch frocks and gravitydefying coiffure? In her latest guise Wilson is going for mainstream jazz respectability, and she has been helped along the way by guest appearances from such luminaries as saxophonist Chico Freeman. Her current band includes Duncan MacKay on trumpet and Simon Hale at the keyboard. Ronnie Scott's, Broad St. Birming-ham (0121-643 4525). Mon 12 to Sat

JOHN ABERCROMBIE/PEE WEE ELLIS John Abercrombie's name graces a shelf-full of albums on the ECM label. His consistency and his ability to slip into just about any genre from bop to fusion has almost counted against him; a talent like his is too easily taken for granted. He appears this week with his group Baseline, featuring Hein Van Der Geyn, the bass player who has been working wonders with singer Dee Dee Bridgewater. More elemental tastes are catered for later in the week with the arrival at the Rhythmic of the bristling funk saxophonist Pee Wee Ellis, the legendary James Brown sideman



Rhythmic sounds: the multitalented John Abercrombie

 $\mathcal{S}_{i}(x,y,y)$

who also played on Van Morrison's recently-released R & B disc, How Long Has This Been Going On? The Rhythmic, Chapel Market, London N1 (0171-713 5859), Abercrombie: Mon 12 to Wed 14; Ellis: Fri 16 to Sun 18.

☐ 1953 Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles if Craig Flame's version of Racine's Andromache, updated to an imagined lialy ruled by Mussolini s son Patrick Marbor (author of of Dealer's Chaco) Umelda, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359)

4404) Now previewing 8pm mai today, 4pm Opens Feb 14 7pm 👸 THE CHANGING ROOM DINY Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the third in the season of Royal Court

Duke of York's, St Maron's Lane, WCD (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sal, 7 30pm. mats Thurs and Sat. 3pm 👸 CHAPTER TWO, Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play bro unattoched New Yorkers whirting towards each other New Neil Simon comedy Gleigud, Sneltesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) New previewing, 8pm mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat 5pm Opens Feb 19, 7pm.

EI COMMUNICATING DOORS Angela Thome reopens Aychbourn's ingerious time-travel play fleeing from a vengelul enemy waithe doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-835 8888) Mon Sat. 7 30pm, mats Wed and Sat. 3pm, (§)

III COMPANY Adnan Lester, Sheka

Gah, Sophie Triompoon in an excellent staging of Sondherm's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra. Dommar Warehouse, Earthern Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Set. 7.30pm, mats Wed and Set. 3pm. 6 ☐ EAST LYNNE Mrs Henry Wood's tamous tale of the dow leabel Varie, played by Rachel Power (Mary Garth in Middlermerch), Philip Frenks directs new adeptation by Lisa Evans who made a line version of The Tenani of Wildlell Hall last year Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS. Helen McCrary Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves in Strron Callow's disappointing and long (4 and a half hours) version of the film

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only Some seats available
Seats at all prices

STRAGMUS MONTANUS Averwith the second of the second



Athol Fugard, Esmeralda Bihl at the Royal Court

10171-223 2223) Tue-Sat, 7 30pm, Sun. 5 30pm Sun. THE IN ASS MENAGERIE SUM

Mendes's radean production Zoe Wahameker and Claire Stormer play mother and daughter. Ben Welden is Tom Connedly, Parlion Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat. 7 30pm, Sat, 3pm. EITHE FIELDS OF AMEROSIA (where everyone knows yal) Preposterous

American respect about fine and the electric chair Also as impleasant as you would expect.

Althropic Shand W.22 (0.17) 416 60481
Mon-Sat 7 45pm, mats Aver, Sec. 3pm. FUNNY MONEY Fat Cooney plays

until March 2

GALFERIES

Richard Cork

BRIDGET RILEY A double help-

ing of recent work by one of our

most rigorous and enlivening

painters. At Waddington Galleries

large paintings fill the space with a remarkable sense of energy. Hints

of sunlight falling through a wood give way, finally, to the realisation

that Riley is above all else an

abstract artist. She revels in visual

complexity, and never lets us come

to rest as we tussle with her teasing

ambiguities. In the gouaches

shown at Karsten Schubert a paler

and more airy side of her work is

revealed. At 65, Riley may well be

entering a more expansive and

hedonistic phase - without, of course, sacrificing her formidable

Waddington Galleries, Cork

Street. London WI (0171-437 Soll)

and Karsten Schubert, 41-42 Foley

Street, London WI (0171-63) 0031).

lucidity and structural control.

Playhouse, Northumbertand Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm. mais Thurs 3pm and Sat 5pm & ☐ MEAVEN BY STORM The Umbridal Brothers, otherwise the Eustralian acrobatic comedians Sharre Dundas and Dave Colins, bring they ingenious and altump show to London Arts. Great Newport Sheet, WC2 (0171-836 2132). New previewing Born Opens.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Tournstant return for Peter Half a production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal The star cast includes Morton Shaw Arma Carrett: Pennie Downe Theatre Royal, Haymorzet, SA1 (0171-930 8800: Mon-Sal, 7 45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm, (5

■ AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Section Daktry's powerul production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-ind Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. Gernick, Channy Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494-5085) Mon-Fir 7 45pm, Sat. 8 15pm, mats Wed. 2 30pm, Sat. 5pm. ■ JOLSON: The highs and lows of the

an JULISON: The regits and ones of the singer with a monster ego. Binan Conley bets out the songs and Sally Ann Tripler is an impressive Public Meeter Victoria Palason Victoria Sines, SWI (0171-834-1317) Mon-Sall, 7 30pm; mals. Wed and Sal, 3pm [5] **ELEE EVANS:** The rubber-boned comedian comes to the West End for a short usason Lyric, Shattesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-194 5049) Mon-Fri Sprn. Sal. 6pm and

THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL Mark Arden and Bert kwook in revival of Writis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama, produced by Counterporti Albery, Si Martin s Lene. WC2 (0171-369) and Sat. 5pm

THE MISANTHROPE, Martin Crimp's contemporary version of Molera, direct by Lindsay Posner, with Ken Scott and lovely supporting cast Young Vic. The Cur. SE1 (0171-928 6363) Now previewing, 7 30pm. Opens Feb 13 👨

EI ROBENCHANTZ AND GUILDENSTEIN ARE DEAD Simon Rusself Beale and Adrian Scarborough play the extendant lords in Stoocard's first play, stall entertaining after 30 years.

National (Lyttelron) South Bank SE1 (0171-928 2252) Today 2 15 and 7 300m. E THE SHAKESPEARS REVUE A with evening of song, dance and eletche to do with Wistam S. Assembled by

Chistopher Liscombe, Malcolm McKee Visitingher Liscombe, Malcolm McKee Visitingher Strand, VC2 (0171-826 9967) Mon-Fn. 8pm Sar 8 30pm mats Wed. 2,30pm and Sal. 5:30pm ENTEET PANIC SEULA RONES DIOTA a troubled mother staking a child psychologist (Hamot Walter) in Stephon Poliakoff's play about the strains of life in tuday's London. today's Condon Hampstead, Swiss Cohage Centre NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, Born ma

☐ VALLEY SONG See Critics' Choice Royal Court, SW1 (0171-730 1745) LONG FLINNERS

■ Buddy: Strand (9171-930 8800)
■ Cats New London (9171-405 9073)
■ Cats New London (9171-405 9073)
■ Crazy for You. Prince Edward (9171-734 8051) □ Dead Guithy Apollo (9171-494 5970) ■ Mass Satgon. Crary Lone (9171-494 5400) ■ Startight Express: Apollo Victora (9171-428 8665) ■ Sunset (9171-328 8662) Traket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES CLOCKERS (18). Spake Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel about young drug-dealers in Brookly With Harvey Keitel, Delroy Lindo and Makin Phaler Mg/m Philip Empire (0171-437 1234) MGM Trocaduro (§ (0171-434 0031) Rio (0171-334 6677) Ribay (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (§ (0171-792 3332)

DESPERADO (18) Overblown Icilow UD to El Manachi, with Amonio Banderas to the market with Among Destroys as the Quart-polymin juliar sagismy vengesince Director Robert Rodriguez Clapham Picture House (0171-438 3263 MGRist Chelson (0171-352 5096) Haymarket (0171-333 1527) Tottenham Court Road (0171-436 6148) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0 (0171-792 3332) Werner (0171-437 4343) ◆ JOHNNY MINEMONIC (15). The

Yakuza marti the contents of Keanu Reeves s head: Futunstic totly from cyberpunk author William Gibson Director, Robert Longo. Odeone: Kensington (01426 914666) Swise Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426 915574)

A LITTLE PRINCESS (U) See Crocs Choice, above LOCH NESS (PG), Ted Danson

COOT Nessic in a fud, harmiess adverture With Joely Richardson Director, John Henderson McGMz: Fullham Road @ (0171-370) 2539 (Haymerket (0171-839 1527) Trocadero @ (0171-82 3332) Warner @ (0171-437 4343)

RENDEZ-VOUS IN PARIS (PG) Three tales of love and chance Featherweight delight from En Rotmer, with a youthall cast of unknowns.
Mineras (0171-235 4225) Renoir (0171-837 8402) CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18) America Area Inspect is 140 Proceasine games in Victorian England Handsome but shift drame, with Mark Hylance Palsy Kensal and Krisan Scott Thomas Director, Philip Haas. MGM Plecedity (0171-437 3581) Phoente (0181-883 2233)

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (when indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the count

 ◆ BABE (U). Glorious, vivacous igrally firm about a sheep-henoing pig, with a cest of tollang animels.

MGMst. Fullmans Roed (0171-370 2636) Trocadoro € (0171-434 0031) Plaza € (0171-437 1234) UC: Whiteleya € (0171-792 3332) BRAVEHEART (15): Overty blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th centu

eput, wan wan sasson as me 13an-esman Scottish napu William Walliam, Gibbon aso directo, Gate, Sunday (§, 0171-727 4043) Odeon Mezzanine (§, 101425 915683) Phoentix (0181-883 2233) Plazes (0171-437 1234) DANGEROUS MINIOR (15): Michele

Pleifler brings hope to an inner-city school Predictable, rose-timed drama. director, John N. Smith. MGM Chelsee (017-1352 5096)
Odeons: Kensington (07425 914669)
See Compe (07426 91400)
End (07428 915 574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-782 3332)

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRIESS (15): Spierdidly atmosphone thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary lote in late 1940s Los Angeles sturnibing over corpass, police and corruption. Directed by Carl Franklin from Water Mosley's remail. Curzon West End (0171-369 1722)

Watermans (0181-568 1176) · PATHER OF THE BRIDE PART I ■ FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II (PG) Steve Mertin texes the patter of tiny text. Bland comedy sequet, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams. Director. Charles Shyter MGMer: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsee (0171-352 5096) Odeones. Kerslington (01426 91498) Leloester Sq (01426 915883) Martine Arch (01426 914501) Switss Cottage (01426 914 099) UCI Whitseleys (3) (0171-792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): This Powlet or a women writer of noment crisis power for a women writer of noment loans. Symposingly sober and lender drama from Pedro Almodóver. Curzon Mayfair (0171-389 1720) Gaste (5) (0171-727 4043) Remolt: (0171-837

8402) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366) HEAT (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent oper crime drams from writer-ters.cor Michael Miller. Berbican (5) (0171-698 8891) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) MGMsr. Futham Road (0171-370 2536)



A Little Princess: makebelieve for Liesel Matthews

Trocadere (3) (0171-434 0031) Nothing Hill Coronet (3) (0171-727 6705) Odeon Swise Cottage (01428 914096) Filtry (0171-737 2111) Becambider Street (0171-955 2772) Screen/Green (0171-26 3530) UCI Whiteleys (3) (0171-782 3332) Warner (5) (0171-437 4343) ◆ GOLDENEYE (12) Pierce Brosnen

twindes as the new James Bond. A no-roaning traffer with a series of humour; with Sean Sean. Odeon Haymertest (01426 915363)

<u> maaminginingan oo ka see</u>

Phoenix (0181-683 2233) Phoenix (0171-437 1234) ◆ THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (PG): A toy inclan figure comes alive Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Berrics's children's stones.

directed by Frank Oz MGM Cheises (0171-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (01428 914666) Selss Cottage (01426 914096) LEAVENG LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage diviris immedi in deeth. Siriking, Intimate drama from director Mille Figgs. With Elisabeth Strue. MGBlts: Pulbeara Road (0171-370 2836) Haymartest (0171-839 1527) Swiss Castre (0171-839 4470) Screen/Balder Street mill. 2005 2770 Western/Balder Street (0171-935 2772) Warner (3) (0171-LES MISSERABLES (12). Unwieldy vertation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Lelbuch, with Jean-Paul Belmondo. Berklean (5) (0171-838 8891) Clephan Picklean (5) (0171-888 3323) Odeon Kessington (01426 914688) Warner (5) (0171-437 4343)

SABRINA (PG): Businessma → SASHIMA (PG): Businessman Herison Ford falls for the cheufleur's daughter, Julia Ormond: Updated Carderella story pust does not work. Otrector, Sydney Polleck. Empire (6171-437 1234) MGMs: Balter St (9171-936 9772) Fulfstam Rd (2) (9171-370 1236) Trocadero (2) (9171-434 0031) Plans (9171-437 1234) UCI Whiteleys (2) (9171-732 2332) teys (0171-792 3332)

 SEVEN (18): Unsatiling and off-beat-serial idler thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pit. Director, David Fincher Empire (2) (1171-437 1234) MGMs. Challen (0171-325 2009) Total Challen Cheines (0171-357 1234) MGMs: Cheines (0171-352 696) Tottambum Court Rd (0171-536 6148) Thursdam (01426 914666) Mezzandre (01426 91563) Swiss Cottage (01428 914036) Ribry (0171-797 2121) UCI Whiteleyn (0171-792 3332)

◆ WAITING TO EXHALE (15). Crude WARTING TO EXHALE (15). Crude cornedly driving about black women's men problems. With Whitingy Houston and Angela Beasent, director, Forest Whitsker Market (17) 1-125

2279) Trocadero D. (07)71-324 (0331)
Odeone: Kensington (07 426 91 4666)
Series Cottege (07 426 91 446) UCI Whiteleys D. (0171-792 3332) Wenter D. (0171-437 4343)

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INSIDE STORY

ONE CELEBRITY author demanded that any limousines provided to her during her promotional tour of Britain must be a certain shade of blue to match her eyes. There must also be three suites at the Ritz-one for her, one for her manager and one for her hairdresser Different demands arrived by the day and eventually her London publisher despaired of her antics and scrapped the tour, to cheers from his office colleagues.

A New York agent insisted that his client be greeted with champagne at every new location. Unless sufficiently chilled there would be "trouble".

Authors stipulate that the publisher must provide a glitzy launch party - for instance, in New York's skyscraper Rainbow Room restaurant with its magnificent views.

[] "Only five-star hotels will be tolerated on tour," ran one contract. "The public would think anything else improper." Another touring author insisted: "My manager and personal assistant will need their own limousines, to be available 24 hours a day."

Celebrity authors can stipulate the right to refuse to go on certain chat shows, perhaps because they are too tough or because a show's host has in the past said had things about the author.

ALAN NEVINS, a former assistant to "Swifty" Lazar (Joan Collins's late, legendary agent), counsels his Hollywood clients against silly demands, "Some celebrity authors will expect, say, a party for their book at the American Booksellers' Association," he says, "Launch parties are effectively for the author and friends. They do not tend to help the book financially."

'Most arguments are about hotels, stretch limousines and the number of staff'

Continued from page I and delete cliches, excessive adjectives and duff characters. Joni Evans, the perma-tanned Random House editor who gave evidence against Joan Collins this week, said she -Evans — and a line editor had gone through "lo drafts" of a book with Lord Archer at his house in the Bahamas. Once that was done, she had jetted off to Loudon to work with Michael Caine.

This is publishing in the mould of international trouble-shooting. We have come a long way from the donnish figure of popular imagination who reaches into his in-tray in Bloomsbury and discovers a brilliant manuscript which needs little more than a few typographical tweaks before it can be sent to the printer.

The turbines of modern publishing turn in places such as the midtown Manhattan skyscraper offices of the William Morris agency, a mighty concern which represents poliand, lest one forgets, authors. The décor as you enter the impressive arrium is space-age and muted corridors stretch in all directions. By the outer walls, in high-tech box offices, sit the executive agents, talk-ing urgently, breathily, into state of the art telephones. In the inner core of this giant monument to modern publishing, meanwhile, sit the assistants, runners and clerks, handsome youths with designer haircuts and a sharp view of

Dan Strone, a William Morris agent who specialises in

hungry publishers, surveyed global publishing this week from his high office window and said: "A person's celebrity status creates an expectation of high sales, which in turn creates an expectation of big advances. Some people in publishing just do not know how to handle stars. I package a book before taking it to the publisher. Once you have a ghost writer or collaborator and you know what the celebrity is prepared to talk about, there are few problems."

Strone concedes that prima donna behaviour can be a problem, but that comes with the territory. "You have to treat these people like stars. You have to expect that they will want to travel first class, in limousines. Most arguments are about hotels, stretch limousines and the number of staff people want to take when travelling. If you try to nickeland dime people, they are not going to be co-operative. When Amy Tan's publish-

ers. HarperCollins, wanted their much-loved star author her The Hundred Secret Senses, she was worried about leaving her 20-month-old dog. Babba. The publishers promised to provide daily doggie fixes with animals borrowed from friends so Tan was never lonely. She came.

Stan Soocher, the editor-inchief of Entertainment Law 8 Finance, a monthly New York newsletter, said: "Publishing is going the way of the rock in roll business. Just as one rock star likes to demand that the



M&Ms in his dressing room are separated into different colours, celebrity authors have started to behave in a way many people might consider outrageous. As book publishing has become a mega busi-ness, more companies are accepting these demands. They are recognising the star qualities of authors. Celebrity book deals are a

high risk for publishers." Soocher said. "When the hit comes, it can be big, but many times they simply do not pay off and you see some celebrity books which are quickly ofbookshops." Random House paid Marlon Brando \$5 million for his memoirs, Songs My Mother Tought Me, but they were a critical and commercial disappointment, not helped by the slim amount of promotional activity the reclusive Brando agreed to do. Hilary Rubinstein, a veter-

an London literary agent, says there have been some "gross and preposterous advances paid to certain stars in recent years. He feels that Random House must have known, when going into the Collins book, that some fairly serious editorial roadworks would be needed. The size of the Collins deal is a credit to her late agent, the legendary living "Swifty" Lazar, whose shade has hovered over the week's court proceedings. "This is Swifty's last hurrah," said his

T's substantial advance

her high profile and an eye for

a good story, has attracted

great commercial interest in

the book trade but her novel

was completed only after dis-

creet tweaking. Sebastian Coe,

the Tory MP and former star

runner, is currently working

on a novel to coincide with the

Olympics. He has an assis-

proved a fair investment. Edwina Currie, thanks to

former assistant, Alan Nevins. Much of the gossip among London publishers last year centred on the £100,000 paid to Naomi Campbell for a novel, Swan, that she had clearly done little to write. woeful effort by Britt Ekland; Martina Navratilova's lacklustre The Total Zone, and a dizzy volume from Ivana Trump, written with more than a little help from a former Dynasty scriptwriter called Camille Marchetta, Campbell's book was largely the work of Caroline Upcher, who is now building a literary name for herself.

in the political world, Baroness Thatcher had a whole team of assistants for her memoirs. At one point during composition the work was considered so dry that the team had to attend an anecdote summit

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

CHOICE WORDS.

ago that she had pros love and honour till death parted them? Alain looked putly, debanched, strung-out. His yellow hair was begin-ning to be faced with grey now and there were tired

What have you been do ing, Alain? Tell me the truth, please, because I know. "Know what cherie!" His face was a picture of boyish innocence. "What do you think you know. my little

"Don't call me your little cabbage," she said savagely. "I'm nobody's cabbage. Not yours not anyone's."
"What is if! he asked This isn't like you. What's wrong, Venetia?

"You're gay, aren't you, Alain!" she asked calmly, "You're still gay, after all these years." He stared at her. his eyes so blue like bers. doleful, then he drained his glass of vodka and went to pour another. "Who told you?" he answered huskily.

They couldn't believe it when they contain believe it when they saw the rushes... Vene-tia's woung bronzed body filled the screen, writhing, moaning and screaming in paroxysms of pleasure which, Fabio could tell with an unaccustomed flash of jeal-ousy, were not laked ... both onsy, were not laked ... both men knew they had a goldmine on their hands.

tant, And Michael Heseltine's political books were composed with the sort of help a minister becomes used to, although, as a dyslexic, the Deputy Prime Minister has a better excuse than many authors.

t is not only celebrity authors who take close editing. Such acclaimed "masters" of the pen as Clive Cussler and Jack Higgins receive scrutiny at the editing stage. What they may lack in technical perfection they balance with an intuitive sense of what readers want. Few authors, in truth, present really "clean" copy.

Richard Cohen, one of London's most respected publishers, used to edit Alistair MacLean. The thriller writer was literate but languid. "With one of his novels I read the manuscript and told him that he had too many heroines," recalls Cohen. "He replied: 'Och well, Richard, just kill one of them off." The next time they met. MacLean told



Supermodel Naomi Campbell with "her" novel, and (left) an extract from the Joan Collins manuscript

Cohen: "You killed off the wrong one, Richard - but nae matter." Sources at the Manhattan

offices of Random House, domain of the wizard Harold Evans, suggest that patience with celebrity authors may have been exhausted, but Evans has only to think of the success he had with General Colin Powell's memoirs last year to know that his company can scarce afford to give up on them. What the Collins case does illustrate, perhaps, is the growing determination of publishers to be more assiduous about remieving advances they feel have not been earned. This is confirmed by Stuart Proffitt, the publisher of trade publishing at HarperCollins.

ness," he said. Proffitt believes there is no way that readers can be fooled by "books that have been cooked up. Artifically manufactured books generally have a shelf life of about three and a

"It is part of the general

tightening-up in the book busi-

half minutes," said Proffitt, who has just finished three months working on the next Lord Archer novel.

Is publishing really so much worse nowadays? Hilary Rubinstein worked on the publi-cation of Muhammad Ali's autobiography. He recalls the book's launch party at which the champion boxer was asked by a reporter: "Did you write the book yourself?" All looked to the ghost writer at his side, pointed at the man, and said: No. He wrote the thing. But i

told him WHAT to write."

Joseph Conrad derived much benefit from the editorial efforts of Ford Maddox Ford. And ghost-writing was taken to literal levels by Thomas Hardy. After Hardy's death in 1928 his widow produced a biography of her husband. It was a good 25 years before people realised that the book - not a critical volume, let us say - had been written by Hardy himself.

Books, pages 12-13

Cover photograph showing Jackie and Joan Collins by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ/CONTACT/COLORIFIC marrying celebrity clients to

John Selwyn Gummer joins a small, lunchtime congregation in London Strength in the unity of prayer



St Mary-le-Strand in London sits in the middle of the road where the one-way system forces the traffic to choose beween crossing Waterloo Bridge or continuing down to Trafalgar Square. When St Thomas a

Becket was its rector, it stood on the sandy edge of the Thames but that church was demolished in 1549 to make way for the palace of the Lord Protector, the Duke of Somerset. It was not until 1724 that the parish

had its own church again when James Gibb completed his first important work in the Italian Baroque style, which he had learnt when studying under Carlo Fornana, the Vancan architect. There is something very un-English about this baroque box, St Mary's. So much so that the royal arms of George I above the apse seem oddly out of place in this exuberantly foreign setting. We are not a large congregation for

the lunchtime service, perhaps a dozen spread about the church. Yet we are given the full Sung Eucharist with four hymns - no half-measures here. Indeed that sums up the church. The ornate ceiling may have been the work of English craftsmen but it is certainly not reticent. Its Italianate plasterwork grabs the attention up above the plain walls and high windows which are suprisingly effective in keeping the noise of the traffic out. Six candles flank the tabernacle, and there are two more on the altar, while votive lights twinkle before the fittingly ornate statue of the Virgin patron of the church.

The rector finishes tolling the bell and walks down to put on his chasuble in the tiny vestry beside the altar. The first : traffic in the Strand!!

THE CHURCH of hymn is announced, and we are led St Mary-le-Strand in impressively by two ladies in the front London sits in the helped by the strongly rhythmic playing of the electric organ. We join in with a will and when the celebrant begins the Kyries everyone is ready to respond and the service gets under way with a swing. There are so few of us, so dispersed, and yet so congregational a feeling. Anglican services at lunchtime are normally an effective illustration of the biblical concept of the faithful remnant; this is altogether more encouraging. We are even able to sing Fight the Good Fight without seeming ridiculous.

The rector has a good strong voice and sings the service effectively. We use rise B from the Church of England's Alternative Service Book and the contin-uing appeal of the traditional language contributes to that feeling of solidarity. It is not only those present who are not

* A five star guide *

ARCHITECTURE: A really good first try from the man who built Radcliffe Camera in Oxford, and the Cambridge Senate House. ***

Two stars well earned. ★★ LITURGY: Good, average Anglican High

Church. **

SPIRITUAL HIGH: You can get the strength of a praying congregation. *** What! in the middle of the

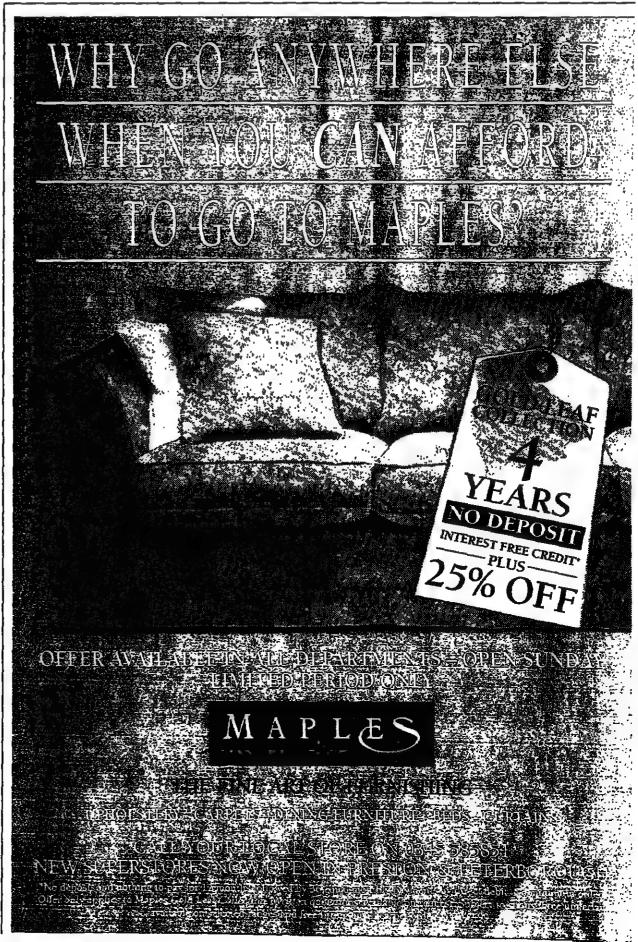
presuming to come to the Lord's Table - we are joined in that by the whole company of so many generations past. Yet within this traditional form we are left in no doubt about the relevance of our faith to the world of today. As befits the Bishop of London's chaplain to the homeless. Father Derek White prays with clarity and directness for the needs of those outside. His language is simple and immensely effective.

and immensely effective.

As we pray for those caught up in war and disaster, for the addicts and the alcoholics, for the sick and the departed, he creates a sense of real concern for each as he remembers them. It is the anniversary of the Queen's accession and in a sentence he communicates her sense of duty to the nation and her very present need for our prayers. This is no ritual listing, but real intercession.

Indeed, here is a praying congregation. During the notices the rector reminds us of the coming of Lent. The parish has a full programme of services for every day, save Mondays. It has produced a special Lenten book with a reading meditation and something specific to do on every day of the penitential season. Clearly there is an expectation that we will want to make a good Lent. There is only a single rail-full of communicants in a church which could hold three hundred, but the sense of a worshipping community impresses itself forcibly upon the visitor. The nearest person may be three or four pews away, but there is no feeling of isolation. Instead of being a lonely upholder of an ancient faith, you know you are part of the blessed company of faithful people.

St-Mary-le-Strand, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel: 0171-836 3205. Lunchtime services are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lpm.



GARDENING

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

I have a large yew hedge. Can you tell me if cuttings can be used in a medicinal way and who to approach about collecting them? - Ms E. Wallis, Crossways, Dorset.

A Yew clippings can be used in cancer research and there are several companies that collect them. There is even a small payment per kilogram for the clippings. Companies are interested in relatively small amounts, even a couple of large bin-liners full.

There are certain things you need to know before collection. For instance, clippings must be kept cool. Small amounts can be spread out in a shady place but large heaps will heat up like compost, so some firms supply special sacks, complete with a fan to push air into the centre of the sack. Collection should follow quickly after cutting.

Some firms offer different prices according to the quality of the clippings, ranging from clean, feathery clip-pings to twiggier stuff. Most are not interested in anything of more than pencil thickness.

☐ Large quantities can fetch 50p per kilogram. For collection. contact: Friendship Estates. Old House Farm. Stubbs Walden. Doncaster DN69BU (01302 700220); Philippe Wanty. PO Box 118, Chichester, W Sussex, PO18 0EL (01243 545455); Yew Clippings Ltd. Milton Mill. West Milton. Bridport, Dorset DT6 3SN (01308 485693).

Our problem plant is Q Yucca gioriosa, Adam's needle, which blooms too late in the year, at Christmas. Can you sugst a way to cure this? --Mr J. Norman, Lincoln.

With leaves as sharp as a yucca's around, who can blame Adam for wanting to stitch together a loincioth? Yuccas are fabulous in bloom, but that 6ft white candle is always late. In a cold garden, it pays to plant it against a south wall to speed nature along, or to plant the smaller but earlier Yucca filamentosa.

Some years ago we took over a garden in which somebody had planted grape byacinths.

The things are spreading like a plague, and thrive on weedkillers such as Roundup and Tumbleweed, and, when they have spread into gravel paths. shrug off PathClear and even sodium chlorate. Any ideas? — Dr M.O. Begley, Frome, Somerset.

A pretty blue, but insidious, aren't they? Muscari grow from a small white bulb, producing lots of builblets every year as well as seedlings. They spread like mad, by fork and hoe and mouse and mole. Think hard before introducing them into an area of close gardening, however pretty they may look as an edging.

Growing them on a grassy bank solves the problem. Removing them from a border is difficult because, like celandines, their bulblets are so numerous that it is almost impossible to dig them up. Attempts at serious digging usually let some builbs drop even lower into the soil. making them harder still to eradicate. Heavy shade stops them flowering but will not kill them except over many, many years. However, you might smother them into insignificance with a heavy herbaceous ground cover.

Where the bulbs are in empty soil, you might try removing and sterilising the soil. What a job! Where they are among the roots of shrubs, persevere with the Roundup (glyphosate) but be sure to bruise the leaves first and to add washing-up liquid to the spray to make sure it does not run off the shiny leaves. There are many things which glyphosate takes several applications to kill, and bulbs are one of them. In gravel, sodium chlorate will work, even if the bulbs have sufficient energy reserves to produce several death throes.

· Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend. The Times. Pennington St. London El 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal respon-sibility. The Times also regrets letters cannot be returned.



The thinking man's plot

he best thing you can do for a new garden. and sometimes the hardest thing, is simply to look at it. Not to rush out and start doing things, but just to look, and think.

When I moved into my new house near Saffron Walden in Essex in December it snowed a little and then, without a breath of wind, froze for a week. All I could do was look.

Then the birds arrived. The children had hung peanuts in an old apple tree outside the got around that there was a free meal. Numbers were few at first, perhaps because the garden has been inhabited previously by a couple of rough-and-tumble dogs, but soon there was all the usual cast of garden birds, plus greenfinches and treecreepers. Below them, a posse of pheasants patrolled the lawn, as if with arms behind their backs. and pretended not to be eating

the fallen peanut skins. But waiting gets you down. After the thaw, i started to spend half hours standing about in the garden, hatching

plots and plans. Mine is not a huge garden, but quite big enough Most of the plot lies to the back of the house, on the east side, in a rectangle 80ft by 110ft. Beyond my boundary is a neighbour's field, and then a row of tall pines along the edge of a stream. If these were thinned now, a few would stand a chance of becoming grand old

pines with broad heads. In my garden there is a good matrix of trees around open lawn, and on these might hang the future garden design. Two big, mature, flower-ing cherries flank the south side. They will be a powerful sight when in flower, and there is no point planning much else nearby until spring shows what colours they will be. Will they be white? Will they be billious pink? (Of course they will.) Will the birds take all the buds every year and the trees never flower? If so, they will go, because cherries are greedy, shallow-rooted trees and worthwhile only in a

small garden if they perform. Dead ahead centre, against the bottom fence, is a 30ft horse chestnut, which I take to

SNOWDROPS

IN THE GREEN

The thing to do with a new

garden is nothing. Just look and plan, says Stephen Anderton

WE-KEND TIPS -

Prune large-flowered clematis, tidying back early-summer

flowerers, and cutting down to 2ft the late-summer ones.

and apply residual granular herbicides if needed.

Dress the soil below established hedges with bonemeal.

Sow early salad crops, such as lettuce and radish, under

Resist the temptation to cut back winter-damaged gray

Complete the removal of dead stalks and leaves from

be the ordinary white one. If it underneath, where nothing were the pink form, there would be a circular scar around the trunk, where the pink scion was grafted on to the plain stock. I would prefer My tree is planted hard it to be the white form or,

Indian horse chestnut, Aesculus indica, which has beautiful glossy leaves. In time, the horse chestnut will make a good tree and a powerful focus for the bottom of the garden. But if you plant a large, greedy tree as a focus in a small garden, there is

always the problem of how to

handle the dry, rooty space

glass, or even in a frame or cloche.

and Mediterranean plants until April.

herbaceous plants to compost heap.

wants to grow. On the other hand, you can encourage horse chestnuts to hold their branches right down to ground level.

against the fence and, by the better still, the late-flowering time it is a big tree, half of it will be hanging over my his way. Perhaps it should go now. It is, after all, the most important place in the whole garden, and getting this right quickly would be most valuable. But no, give it a year and see what the tree does for the

garden in summer. (Suddenly.

allowed to take it down. I must check with the local authority planning department.) Anyway, have I not always railed against people who move into new houses and

immediately start cutting down trees before they have had chance to see what purpose they serve? I must see it all in summer first. own the left flank

conservation area I may not be

of the garden, to the north, is my Pride of place goes to the ohso-necessary garden shed, a splendid Wendy house, rotary. washing line, compost heap, another big cherry and three 30ft Leyland cypresses, which are quietly smothering a decdar (Himalayan cedar) and a Lawson cypress. If the Levlands do not get the deodar, the cherry will in another couple of years.

The Leylands really ought to go although, just now, they make a fine screen and a spiash of February greenery. But soon they will be 40ft high, and then 50ft and impossibly dominating. My neighbour to the north will be able to grow mushrooms in the gloom of his south-facing greenhouse. Tucked at the back the

a nasty thought: if this is a Leylands is a surprise. A 15ft dawn redwood. Metasequoiu glyptostroboides, sits by the fence, and at its foot a collection of handleless Edwardian garden rollers (they did so love to roll in those days). On close inspection, someone has "rolled" the redwood, and there is a sizeable patch of bark missing at ground level. The chances are that, as a result, it will never make a good, ma-

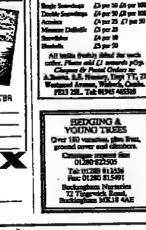
ture tree. Damn those rollers. Out on the lawn, however, is a real promise a 12ft multistem yew of loosely cottage-loaf configuration and crying out to be topiarised and pulled into the greater scheme of the new garden. I could relent and do that now, but should I wait? No. That I shall begin. Then it can start thickening up this year.

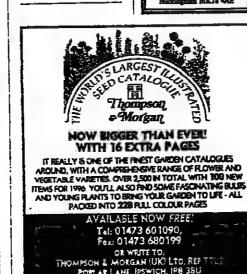
In general, this year should be for planning: for getting to know the soil, to see how clayey it is, to see where bulbs spring up, to clobber serious weeds, to see where the warm, sunny corners are, and the cold ones, to see if we will use the garden door in summer. and to see if the frost really does have me in its pocket.

Meanwhile, the pheasants think the Levland cypresses are wonderful, and in the dustbowl under their canopy the birds wallow in ecstasy.



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What's in a plant name?

SAY WHAT you like about the giving of cut flowers, the principle of the thing is safe enough. Even if the beloved cannot stand chincherinchees, the flowers will at least die within a couple of weeks. Not so with plants for the garden. Giving these is a much trickier proposition, Stephen Anderton writes. I would hesitate to ask someone to put

up with my taste in plants for ever ...
"And how is Yucca "Vittorio Emmanuel Il? Doing well for you?" In fact, YVE II was probably given away at the first possible opportunity.

But it is these outrageous names which make the gift of plants stick in the mind of the present givers, and which keep them wondering how Rosa 'Golden Wedding' and your marriage are doing.
So popular is R. Golden Wedding with

prospective donors and, particularly, with the nursery trade that, when the first, 1938 RGW disappeared from cultivation, a new one was bred to replace it. There is now a stack of golden opportunities on the wedding list, including Golden Celebration', 'Golden Anniversary', 'Golden Days, 'Golden Moments' and, of course, 'Golden Years'.

Find That Rose, a booklet published by the British Rose Growers' Association. lists 26 'Golden' roses.

The rose is one of those plants, along with violas, irises, rhododendrons, fuchsias and dahlias, that has attracted a huge range of first-name titles. And there is no doubt that this helps to sell them to an eponymous market.

Last year a little booklet, The Directory of First Name Plants, was produced, so if you want to give your Desirée a 'Desirée' for her birthday or as a Valentine present. you know where to look. And, if she doesn't like the plant, it will be that much harder for her to dispose of than a plant with just a Latin name. Binning one's namesake is like cutting one's toenails in public; difficult for semi-superstitious

Looking through this booklet of names. it is striking how many more of the names listed are female than male. The plants



'Golden Years', an anniversary rose

were bred. I suppose, largely by men, and named after their lighter loves. The male names are mostly serious and oldfashioned, in the manner of 'Arthur' and 'Arnold'. There is no Rosa 'Clint' or 'Brent', although there is the locker-room rose 'Sexy Rexy'. a mid-pink 30in-tall floribunda rose. But, thorns or no, roses surely must be essentially female things, soft, perfumed and gorgeous.

People, they say, become in time like their pets, but do plants share the characteristics of their namesakes? Plants with such conspicuously human names ought to be christened with great care, so that plant and name can live comfortably together.

I could never imagine a hosta, with all that bold foliage and stiff flower, to be anything but male. No one - even someone who talks to their plants - could go out in the morning and address a hosta

as 'Marian'. But 'Harrison' the bosta is altogether more appropriate. More chunky. "Hiya, Harrison!" That sounds more like it.

Curiously, houseleeks (sempervivums) have been a favourite target among plant breeders for receiving the names of mothers, wives and daughters. Curious, because it would be hard to think of a less dumpy, earthbound little plant, 'Ronnie' on the other hand, is a good name for a houseleek. Neat, cheerful and completely

Would we remember Daphne now, or the daughters named after her, if she, when being chased round Antioch by a randy old Apollo, had had the lack of good fortune to be metamorphosed by Mother Earth into a houseleek? Or a pebble plant?

THE TROUBLE with buying a plant for its name alone is that a familiar handle does not guarantee its quality or character. Names carry such different messages to different generations. Salvia 'Madonna' might mean the plant is black and spiky, or virginal white or celestial blue. Association is entirely in the mind of the beholder.

When it comes to it, most of us are capable of buying plants for others that we do not want for ourselves and without any help in the choosing from other people. Who can honestly say that at some time they have not bought a shirt with the wrong sized collar, or an appealing plant for which one has neither real use nor space? On the other hand, how flattering it is when someone brings a plant which shows just how much they have consid-

ered your tastes and needs. Perhaps, if I have a house-warming party, I might acquire four dozen 3ft-tall container-grown yew trees for my hedge?

 The Directory of First Name Plants costs 🖸 from D. and P. Hartshorn, Nonesuch Cottage, Badby, Northants NN11 3AW. Find That Rose — a Guide to Who Grows What is compiled by the British Rose Growers' Association, c/o The Editor, 303 Mile End Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 5EA.

GARDENING

Making a modern medieval garden

Garden

historian

Sylvia

Landsberg has designed

Queen

Eleanor's

scented bower he beautiful 15th-cen-

tury French manuscript shown right is one of the sources that I used to design a garden that would soften the austere Great Hall in Winchester, the only remaining building of Henry III's 13th-century castle.
The original idea came from

the Hampshire Gardens-Trust, which proposed that a royal pleasure garden of around the same period as the castle be re-created. In 1986 Hampshire County Council built the garden, and it is now open to the public.

The garden is named after the queens of Henry III and his son Edward I - Eleanor of Provence and Eleanor of Castille respectively. They were the first queens in this interest in gardens. Eleanor of Castille even arranged to pay for her Moorish gardeners to return to Aragon on her death, in 1290. It may have been through the quen's continental background that the brightest stars of the medieval herbaceous border, such as pot marigolds, wallflowers, lavender and the hollyhock, were introduced to England.

Queen Eleanor's Garden as a whole — as opposed to the garden illustrated is a narrow triangle, some 10yd x 30yd, typical in size and shape of the tiny



would be some corner in a garden in which to sit and perhaps eat or drink. The style would range from rough banks and a crude trestie table in a peasant garden, to a high level of carpentry in a royal or aristocratic garden.

castle gardens of the time.

which were wedged between

buildings. It is also similar in

size and position to many private London gardens and,

like many small, modern ones,

it is packed with flowers and

ornament in the upright as well as the horizontal plane. A

bronze falcon perches atop a

hand-carved, stone fountain, a

water channel trickles through

the garden, and there are

stone and wooden benches,

with decorations copied from.

local contemporary garden features. A rose and vine-

covered arbour leads towards

the enclosed flowery bower

have retired to play chess or

where a medieval queen might

This is the part of the garder

illustrated above, and it is

typical of the period. At all

els of medieval society there

The medieval shows a turf bench surrounding a turf "carpet", the whole probably enclosed by a low brick wall. Planted in a bed built into the top of one wall is a border luxuriant with red and white pinks, tailer single carnations and probably marjoram. In the larger surround-ing garden, not shown, other scented plants, such as lavender and stocks, complete the olfactory picture. On three sides of the bower garden the backs of the turf seats are planted with red and white

roses. Rosa gailica officinalis

and Rosa alba -- now known as the roses of Lancaster and York. Although the method is not visible, these roses are either interwoven into, or tied back onto, the trellises. The back of the enclosure is completed by the vines on the side of the tunnel arbour.

Elaborately carved support diagonal and squarepatterned trelliswork. At the

top of the arched entrance there is a heraldic crest, confirming a wealthy owner. The picture illustrates Boccaccio's Emilia, ("weaving a subtle garland for her head" in Chaucer's translation for "The Knight's Tale"), sitting here in the shade of two hawthorn

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in Queen Eleanor's Garden this French medieval illustra-

FACTFILE

Based on The Medieval Garden, by Sylvia Landsberg,
British Museum Press, £12.99. Available February 12, 1996.

 Queen Eleanor's Garden is open daily from 10am-5pm but is best visited from April to early July. (Queen Eleanor's Garden, Great Hall, the Castle, Winchester, Hants.) Admission free.

• The author is a garden historian, designer and lecturer who specialises in 12th to 17th century-style gardens, 118 Highfield Lane, Southampton, SO 17 INP.

tion has been re-created to a size of 4yd x 5yd. The turf seats were constructed from stacks of turves to a height of about 20in, infilled with soil behind. used to grow the plants. All this is contained within a low wall of limestone blocks. The seats were originally newly fronted each autumn with difficult to prevent these from ged-on turves. It has been drying out, and one wonders if they were created for short visits only — a Chelsea flower

show effect. The garden trelliswork is made from 3in x 3in square oak posts, onto which a square trellis of conifer poles is nailed. The archway is topped by a gold-leafed ball and heraldic shield displaying the quar-tered devices of Eleanor's father, King of Leon and

tled to use - gold castleon red, purple lion on white. These were copied from her gilded tomb in Westminster Abbey. The garden has the same species of rose - Lancaster and York - as in the illustration. Careful pruning prevents

the onset of rust.

inks and carnations cannot be grown since these did not reach England until the end of the 15th century. Instead, yellow wallflowers and native cowslips for spring are alternated in the summer with single pot marigolds - Calen-

dula officinalis and the little

native pansy, Viola tricolor,

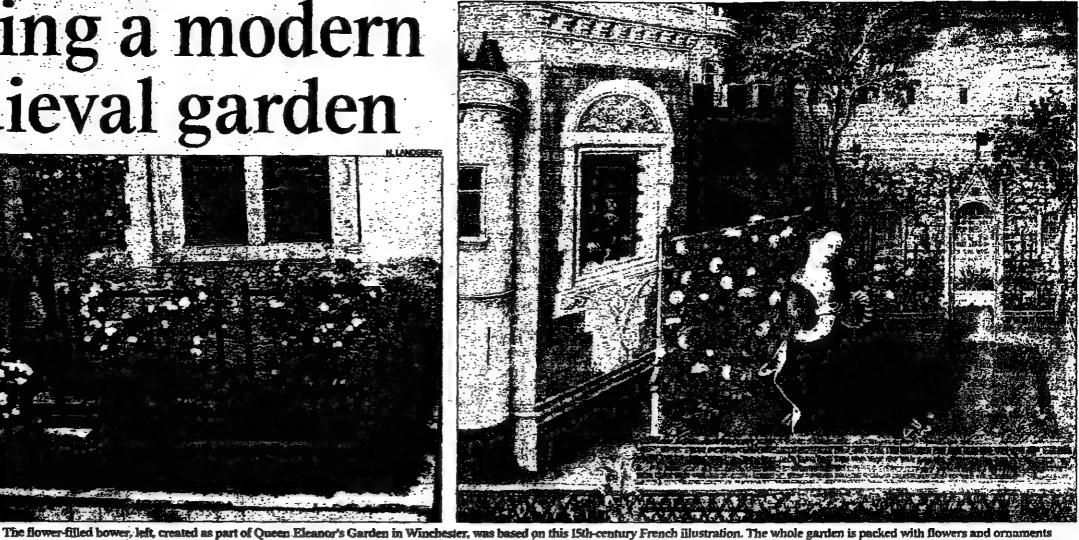
with winter savory for scent.

This planting scheme panders to the greater visual demands made by visitors rather than the priority given

to scented plants in medieval times. The roses flower for only two to three weeks in late June or early July. A painting. deceptively, flowers all year. The little "herber" is finally carpeted with wild flowers, in particular ground ivy an germander speedwell, giving a fleeting sheet of blue in May. A table on which to play chess completes the scene.

There are many reasons why one would not wish to transform a present-day private garden into one of medieval style. Short flowering periods, floppy plants, proneness to rust and mildew, late opening of vine buds, to name described here can look well in a modern garden, and a chapter in my book (details left), explains some of the

techniques.



HOMES & GARDENS

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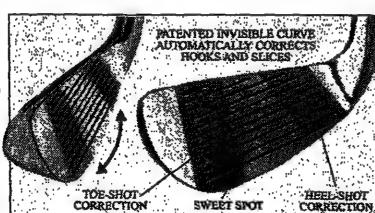
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SHOPPING

. Putting the Roman back into romance

Jill Parkin tests a selection of Valentine

presents to see if they succeed in

setting your beloved's pulse racing

and there's not a wolfskin thong to be had anywhere. Not for love or money. First the sacrificing of dogs was outlawed, then wolves became extinct in Britain, which made running about in their skins tricky. Finally, public thonging of women lost some of its political correctness. Eventually Valentine's Day took over - and it's all

about love and money.

about love and money.

Instead of enjoying a good old fertility festival, we send an out-ofseason red rose with a weak neck that breaks after a day or two. Who was St Valentine anyway? He has been omitted from the calendar of saints' days as probably non-existent. He has survived only because his alleged martyrdom day falls a day before Lupercalia.

Be conventional on the 14th if you wish, but purists should reclaim their day with something Roman. Examining the entrails of a dog for omens may be going a bit far, but there's no reason why you shouldn't shuck an oyster or 12 and examine their innards with a loved one. Half a dozen of the aphrodisiac bivalves will cost £13.50 at Wheelers in London and Brighton or £3.95 at the Magpie

Today's Antonys might fancy giv-ing asses milk to their Cleopatras, but will probably have to settle for a bathful of goat or sheep milk instead. That could be pricey: Harrods charges £1.10 and £1.30 a pint.

If you'd die for your love, send him a CD of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and hope he arrives with several gallons of sheep's milk to douse your funeral pyre before it gets too warm.

If your sweetheart is literaryminded, remember the Romans were good on erotica. Whatever your sexual preference, Catulius (Poems, Penguin Classics, £6.99), and Ovid (The Erotic Poems, Penguin Classics, £8.99) will have done it and commemprated it in verse.

I've always wanted a man to buy me packets of seeds of all Shakespeare's flowers. He could plant them. in a Bard border, and I could trip among them muttering about rosemary for remembrance and pansies for thoughts. If you like the idea, but not the digging, go for the book - Shakespeare's Flowers, Royal Shakespeare Company, £4.99 — telephone. orders 01789 296860.

derwear is a tricky one. The shops I rang all said: "Something red for Valen-tine's Day." I think red is to be embarked on if you know your.

For a cheeky variation on the chocolate theme, try Chocolate Body Paint (BhS, £3.50). It's for spreading on ice-cream, bread or bodies. Not to be mixed with expensive underwear.

You could actually use the line "Come up and see my etchings" if you had one of the heart designs by Jenny Tapping waiting for your sweetheart. The tiny, hand-coloured etchings range from £11.50 to £19.50. Ring 01787 247865 for details.

If you have the money to shop at Cartier (0171-493 6962) and yet would like to keep tabs on your investment. their gold love bangle (from £2,600) may be for you. It has to be put on by the giver and comes complete with

Lupercalia was still on my mind when I asked our Valentine testing panel to check out a few of this year's. gifts, "Send me a young man in a wolfskin," I cried. Instead, I got Perry Cleveland-Peck, an editorial assistant at The Times, in a silk shirt.

Our panel consisted of Perry, 25, my husband, 53, my stepdaughter, 16, and me. 37. In all cases, our judgment may have been distorted by consumption of too many chocolates.

MOSS TEDDY BEAR Fitzroy's, £35 (0171-722 1066). Nextday delivery in London. Allow up to a week for the rest of the UK. With regular watering the bear could last

he Roman fertility festival of IP: When I first saw him I wasn't supercalia is just days away sure, but he's growing on me... sure, but he's growing on me ... Husband: He's very good, but I'd be rather worried if someone gave him to me. Who was that chap in Brideshead? I'd only give it to someone who was mad about bears. And I don't think I'd want to be involved with a woman who was mad about them.

PC-P. He's fantastic. I'd definitely buy him for my girlfriend. I'd be pleased to be given him too. (Perry and Teddy left the testing together.) Sweet 16: He's fun. He doesn't scream "commitment" at you. Non-

Heart rate - 5 out of 5. But only for the young ones. And isn't three years of watering a commitment?

▼ HEART-SHAPED CALCULATOR

Fenwicks, £13.50. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161. With jewelcoloured keys. JP: I haven't got the self-confidence to

like something that vulgar. Husband: Does it play a tune? PC-P: For teenagers - but it's tacky. Sweet 16: I actually know someone with one of these. Not for me. I

suppose if you put in on your desk it tells the world you've had a

Heart rate - 1. My three-year-old fell for it but her idea of a Valentine is Thomas the Tank Engine.

* FLOWERS FOR A MAN

Interflora, £30 - freephone number is 0500 43 43 43. Our florist carne up with a burst of red and yellow ~ sunflowers, amaryllis and carnations, backed up with eucalyptus and willow. It was the hit of the testing. even with my husband, who had complained about the smell of some hyacinth flowers the day before. JP: Just right for a man. Nothing droopy or Victorian about this. No ribbons, no scent. Given to a woman,

it wouldn't be romantic, but this would knock a chap over without

being cloying.
Husband: Almost shockingly good.
It's in a water-bag, so you don't have the fuss of having to arrange it. I'd just plonk the whole thing in the salad bowl. If you had this in your flat and a mate came round, you wouldn't be embarrassed. Just the

job. Not smelly, either. PC-P: I'd be really flattered if a woman sent me flowers. No problem with that at all. These make a good splash. Sweet 16: I'm not really into flowers

It's quite a heavy thing to send

White enamel cufflinks with small red hearts, one broken. Sackville and Jones from Fenwicks, £14.95. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161. JP: I've never bought a man cufflinks. These are quite jolly. Small and not flashy. Husband: They're witty. I'd wear

PC-P: I'd be quite thrilled with these. Cufflinks are a great idea.

Sweet 16: Pass. Heart rate -4.

Heart rate - 2.

***AMOR VINCIT OMNIA** PICTURE FRAME Metal gilt-embossed frame 4in x 3in

with small heart-shaped cut-out for photograph. Modulus from Ren-wicks, £23.95. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161. IP: It's good and heavy but it doesn't improve with time.

Husband: Hideous:
PC-P: It's OK, nice and weighty. I like it more than when I first saw it.

Sweet 16: Not at all.

THEART AND BIRDS WALL HANGING Red plaster heart, 6in high, with two lovebirds perched on top. Liberty, 19.95. Mail order: 0171-734 1234.

JP: I like this. It may be heart-shaped

Romeo and Juliet would probably opt for the traditional love tokens of flowers and chocolates, but you could try the moss teddy bear from Fitzroy's, £35 distressed, which stops it being naff. Husband: I like it more than I did at first. In the right place it would be fine: there aren't many right places. PC-P: I've been to houses full of

things like this. It's good. Sweet 16: It's worse than the picture frame. It looks like a decoration from a house in Neighbours.

Heart rate — 3.

V CHARBONNEL ET WALKER CHOCOLATES

Heart-shaped box with I Love You or other message in gold-wrapped chocs, £34 for 280c; or heart-shaped chocolates in hand-made fabric box, £20 for a quarter of a pound. Available by mail order on 0721-60 0020 0171-491 0939.

JP: The little hand-made box is lovely. If it's an established relation-

ship, this is the one. Husband: No. Go for quantity. The big box is the one. The I Love You message is irrelevant. The heartshaped box registers with you and you can't wait to tear into the chocs.

PC-P: The small box would be better for someone you want to woo. It's established relationship. You expect to share those on the sofa. The little box is just enough for one. Sweet 16: Love the chocs. It's a

schmaltzy idea, but who's going to complain? Heart rate - 4. **BED CUSHIONS**

Heavily embroidered cushions, 14in x 14in, with Shakespearean quotes from Midsummer Night's Dream or Romeo and Juliet. Royal Shakespeare Company, 01789 296860. Titania, £15.99; Romeo and

JP: They're beautiful and sexy. I'd prefer these to underwear any time. Husband: A bit different. Quite a strong message - not for someone you've just met at the bus-stop. PC-P: A lovely romantic gesture. Sweet 16: Almost as good as the FROM THE RSC

Royal Shakespeare Company, 01789 296860. Printed with hearts and a romantic quotation from Shake-speare, £2.85 or £10 for four; also from Liberty, £3.95.

JP: I think these are adorable. Mass-

produced cards can be dreadful

protoced cards can be dreading unless you get those "blank for your own message" ones.

Husband: They're almost a present in themselves. Though it's rather playing the field to buy four in a pack, isn't it?

PC-P: I like this idea. It shows you've given the person some thought. Sweet 16: Exactly, it's much nicer than just grabbing something off the Heart rate - 5.

 Costumiers: Angels & Bermans (0171-836 5678). Flawers: Paula Pryke (OIFI-837-7373) for Interflora. Shot at The Peacock House, Addison Road, Holland Park, London, with thanks to the Richmond Fellowship

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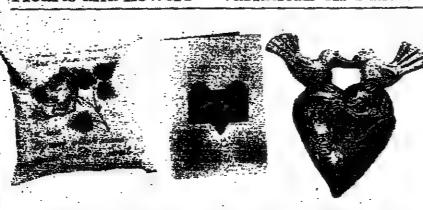
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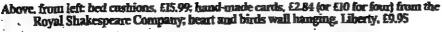
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Hearts and flowers — variations on a theme



Romeo with Flowers for a Man arrangement from Interflora, £30

















Juliet with Charbonnel et Walker

SHOPPING

Next time you're in Paris for le weekend, follow in the footsteps of Alicia Drake for a successful buying spree





and the control of th

A range of fragrances by Annick Goutal - eau de toilette from £30, perfume from £40

tique, department store and around St Sulpice and St-Germain des Près on the Left Bank is ideal. The streets are full of shops selling everything from chandeliers to foie gras, and the area has many attractive squares and cafes.

Start around the church of St Sulpice, built about 1700. If you want a kickstart, there is Mairie, which faces on to the place St Sulpice. The north side of the square used to be lined with shops selling sur-plices and rosaries, but these have been replaced gradually by boutiques and the couturi ers Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix.

The suggested shops on my route have been chosen for products that are not widely available in Britain. Just off the square at 1 rue du Vieux Colombier is

Hervé Chapelier (00 331 440 70650), which sells smart nylon weekend packs. In Paris, adults buy Chapelier's cashmere sweaters and students buy his bags. but these are far too good to be kept for

lectures. All bags are lightweight, machine-wash-able and in duo colour combinations, such as choco-



Candle (left) £38.70, soaps £10.50 each. From Annick Goutal

start at Fr135 (£18) for a bath bag, Fr190 (£25.35) for a vanity case, and bar (£40) for a weekend bag.

Diagonally opposite at No 12 place St Sulpice is the perfumerie Annick Gontal (463 30315). You are now heading into Parisian "luxe" country. A former concert pianist. Goutal started making scents in 1981. Her perfumes are stylish and discreet and their exclusivity gives them the edge on most commercial scents. Madonna wears Passion, the Prince of Wales uses eau d'Hadrien, and when Prince William was born the late President Mitterrand sent him a gift of the

This tiny branch at St

Sulpice stocks scented candles in glasses, which the Parisians are mad about, refillable and priced at Fr290 (£38.70). Bars of bath soap are FY79 (£10.55) and there is a range of fragrances in eau de toilette, from Fr220 (£30), or eau de parium, from Fr296 (£40).

Then turn left and wander along the rue St Sulpice for window shopping or real shopping depending on your budget, with the Catherine Memmi boutique (440 72226) at No 34 for cool cream and beige table linen and Beaute Divine (432 62531) at No 40 for antique objets for the dressing

Marie Mercie (432 64583). Self-taught, and a former Edi-



for of the socialist magazine

Latitude, Mme Mercie says that, when designing, she ima-gines "a beautiful woman with

panache, who would have

fought in the Resistance". Her

hats are often quirky, always stylish and are lapped up by Parisians, and by French and

Tor daywear, Mme Mercie offers funky

felts, such as a handmade crenellated hat costing Frl.400 (£186). For evening and weddings she has

more extravagant creations.

which start at about Frl.800

(£240) and are often made to

measure. If you are in Paris

just for the weekend and have

a coup de foudre (love at first

sight) for one of her made-to-

measure hats, she can take

measurements and send you

the hat in about three weeks.

Turn left up the rue de Seine and then left again on to the

boulevard St Germain and

head for the Cafe Flore at No

172, an ideal spot for lunch.

Less touristy than Les Deux

Magots next door, it's one of

those Left Bank philosophe cafes from the 1910s, now

boulevard St Germain to rue

des Saints Pères, turn right,

and down the road at No 30 is

the chocolatter Debauve &

lished in 1800, the firm made

chocolates for Charles X and

Louis XVIII, and still makes a

dental-defying selection of lux-ury chocolates at, Fr440 (£59)

turned Paris glamour. A glass or so of bordeaux later, you can step out along

American actresses.

Marie Mercié hat, from £240

francs and energy, cross back over the boulevard St Germain and follow rue des Saints Pères until you meet the Carrefour de la Croix Rouge. Here is the Comtesse du Barry shop (454 83204), per-fect for stocking up on jars of foie gras or boudin (an unspeakable piece of offal rather like black pudding which Parisians love), from Fr61 (£8.15) and Fr44 (£5.90) respectively.

Just along the rue du Cherche Midi at No 4 is the swimming costume store Eres (454 49554). If you have ever wondered where those Cote d'Azur sophisticates get their slick bathing suits, this is the .place. The costumes, one-piece or two, are simple, flattering and well cut, with prices at Fr:55 (£73) for a basic bikini and Fr750 (£100) for a onepiece. You can buy bikini tops and bottoms separately to mix

and match to suit your shape. Back at the crossroads and off to your left at Sevres Babylone is the department store Le Bon Marché (420 03345), which is small, slightly old-fashioned and the pre-ferred department store of Parisians. The ground floor has a big new menswear department, Baithazar, which stocks Givenchy. Hermes. Kenzo and Celine.

This may now be the time to ather up all your bags and follow another Parisian custom - slip off to a bar and sit watching the world go by.

Books, page 12 Travel, pages 18 and 19



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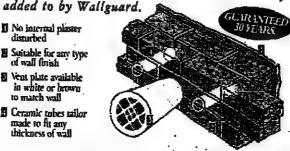
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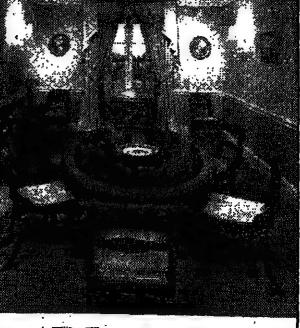
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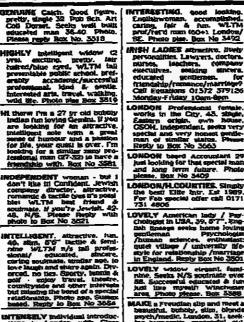
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The not so bare necessities of ambassadorial life



Diplomatic relations on millionaires' row

becoming a London "baronial half was to the country. Many spstantial houses for sale in the capital are being deemed suitable same way that rurabiles were elevated to aristocratic status. But what constituts an ambassadorial residence?

A fine place to wart would be in Courtenay Avenue in-Highgate, north ondon. The road runs paralll to what is said to be Lordon's most expensive residutial street, The Bishop's Aunue, the domain of the vey rich, who occasionally rst their jetlagged heads tiere.

Courtenay Avenue has the benefit of being a cul-de-sac no through tranc to the North Circular neer ever disturb sleep or intride on privacy Admittedly, the avenue is secand best, but t is not without?

its chandelier.

Our example (above) is
No 7, which is for sale at £1.450,000 though the agents Keith Cardile Groves. The house has five reception rooms, a Gehic chapel, extensive gardens four bedrooms, a guest suite games room, staff flat and a large driveway. impressive but why does the the agent (escribe it as being

Chris Underhill, the manager of KCG's Highgate office, says: "Fora start, there are si or seven ambassadors" residences in the road." The house is presently occupied by a diplomat and the road is a low-profile and secure environment Should there be an official function, temporary barriers can be erected to control access. And, of much importance to diplomats, it has an in-and-out driveway.

The house is large enough to enter ain at least 200 people. lt's also near the centre of Londor, yet far enough north of Whitehall to hear the lirds tweeting in the morning, says

There are many aspects, then, for a diplomat to considfor which an ordinary semi or a

But there are houses elsewhere that seem uncomfortable with their iast November,

The Times Diary reported that residents in Kensington Court Gardens, southwest London, were miffed because the Belorussians had been granted planning permission to convert a house into an embassy, with an ambassadorial flat over the

shop. Opposition came from, among others, Sir Ronald Arculus, a former British ambassador to Italy. Wishing to keep his part of Kensington as residential as possible, he complained that the embassy and residence would cause traffic congestion, a shortage of parking spaces, queues for visas, and the occasional noisy demonstration. He lost his battle.

olland Park, west London, is the latest to experience a new diplomatic invasion. The Uzbekis, Belarians and Ukrainians are opening embassies and residences there, and some of their reluctant neighbours are displaying signs of nimbyism. Others are less convinced that diplomatic neighbours

are a problem. Willy Gething. who runs Property Vision, which buys houses in central London, says that such complaints "don't hold much sway". He speaks from personal experience. "I was near a number of residences and embassies when I was living in Holland Park," he says. "and I suspect that the local



£3.95 million would buy this house in Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood

police patrolled our roads more than they would if the diplomats hadn't been there. It was a boon. I even used to leave my briefcase in the back of my car at night. As far as I'm concerned, God bless the diplomats - and anybody complaining needs their head examined."

But pity the poor ambassa-dor. He or she is obliged to find a property that suits their country's needs without raising the national debt. A typical budget for a suitable London residence would need to be between £1.5 million for a relatively low-key diplomatic presence, to ES million for creating a big splash.
Ideally, the residence should

be within the existing watch of the Diplomatic Protection Group (DPG) - concentrated mainly in Holland Park, Kensington, Mayfair and Belgravia. However, the South Korean ambassador is rather fond of his Wimbledon residence, and the protection group is obliged to provide protection wherever the residence is located.

According to Richard Crosthwaite, of the agents Knight

out driveways are features have. "Such attributes are particularly useful for really big functions," he says, "especially on the country's national day of celebration." But there within Maylair and Belgravia that haven't aiready been snapped up by diplomats, and this is why so many official residences are starting to appear in areas such as St John's Wood and Higheste.

In St John's Wood. Knight Prank is offering a three-storey house in tree-lined Hamilton Terrace at £3.95 million with an 89-year unexpired lease. The white stucco-fronted, detached, eight-bedroom house has a large, landscaped rear garden and plant room, sepa-rate staff flat, driveway, video entry and security system, but does lack spacious reception rooms.

For ambassadors on a more limited budget, Knight Frank is offering a freehold house in Highgate with seven bedrooms, an in-and-out driveway and a 124ft garden at £1.4

Those with a large house to sell in central London may be tempted to believe that theirs could be described as "ambassadorial". And they could be right. Brian D'Arcy Clark, of the agents Chesterfield, stipulates that: "Much of the accommodation can be modest, but the reception rooms have to be large. The space can vary from 3,000sq ft to 10,000sq ft. Prechold is preferred, and the property has to be in good condition, or requiring only a few minor alterations."

Failing that, if you have a little place tucked away in the Home Counties, why not put it up for sale as a "consular cottage"? Even diplomats need weekends away.

GUY WALTERS

0181-341 6666. Property Vision, 0171-823 8388. Knight Frank, north London, 0171-431 8686; Mayfair, 0171-629 817 (. Chesterfield, 0171-581 5234.

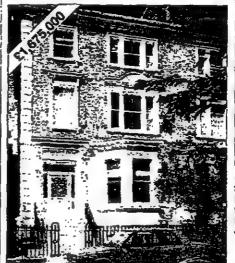


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Quick and the dread

RUDE GIRLS By Vanessa Walters Pan, £3.50

VANESSA WALTERS is a sassy-looking, black, 18-yearold author from north London who is already at work on her second novel. To judge from her debut. Rude Girls, it too will be tightly plotted, with a good ear for dialogue, a slightly enervating propensity to list every item of clothing her heroines are wearing and a moral-happy denouement five pages from the end.

Things move along with enough bounce and vigour to satisfy the teenage readers this is airned at - Yardie's daughter Shree, single mum Paula and upwardly-mobile Janice have been best friends "since the beginning of time" and look for relief from the whiteout oven of London summer in all-day festivals and endless mutual hair-dressing sessions. Things start to go pearshaped when Shree's dad shoots a business associate in the middle of a drug deal and the three girls are bound up in



Walters: bounce and vigour

Further pressure is put on the friendship by Shree's lust for a dodgy Yardie who always turns up at the most inopportune times in a large black Mercedes and "accidentally" snogs her just as the plot needs a fight or an argument. Meanwhile, Paula forges more independence from her domineering mother and Janice has a run-in with a smarmy yuppie in the throes

of denying his blackness. While Walters displays unnerving enthusiasm and a healthy disrespect for her male characters, her failings are all too apparent by the third chapter: stolid storytelling unrelieved by those bursts of imagination and prose that mark out the truly gifted from the merely talented. Still, should her career as a novelist fail to take off, she has some interesting ideas about coiffure and should do well as

CAITLIN MORAN

A member of the NCR Book Award panel, Andrew Roberts is confident of avoiding the acrimony that has dogged other prizes

hen my car was stolen last December. driven to Stoke Newington and completely stripped, the thieves left A most gentlemanly jury only three articles: my green

welcome, ground rules. We were consider what other awards he or not expected to read all 145 books she might have won or narrowiy awards do work in bringing the awards are thus proof that somewellies, my wife's classical tapes and The Architecture of Southern but should each take away the 20 or England by John Julius Norwich. so which most interested us. The prospect of being forced, for the first If so, may I recommend to them time since Eng Lit A level, to read all of a book I did not necessarily like therefore receded. Next month another of Lord Norwich's works. Byzantium: The Decline and Fall, the third and final part of his great we will read each other's three or four favourites to create a shortlist. along with 144 other works of history, biography, travel and non-fiction for the NCR Book Award, of Our last meeting, to choose the winner, takes place in the hour or so before a huge dinner at the Dor-

chester on May 22. The other ground rules - that we would not take into account how rich the winner is before awarding the £25,000 tax-free cheque, or

missed - were also agreed on quickly. My whispered question about the ethics of taking away some books to give as presents to family and friends was answered by a magisterial wave of Paxman's hand. "Treat it like Christmas shopping without the money."
Under the aegis of the formidable

Dotti Irving, who has run the prize (formerly and henceforth called the NCR Book Award) for a decade, we finished quickly and left.

Whatever advertising executives may say to the contrary, I do not believe we remember advertisename of a company to public attention. For the price of two or three full-page advertisements in the national newspapers, AT&T can organise and pay for an award which will get its name into the allimportant editorial as opposed to just the advertising pages.

The winner gets a large cheque, the runners-up receive £3,000 each, the judges also receive a modest fee for their half-year readathon, the company gets free advertising into diary stories and columns like this. the public gets the fruit of our deliberations and the literary world

times capitalism can benefit

Having met the other judges -Cristina Odone, Nick Hornby and Sue Butterworth — I suspect I shall soon be feeling like the shrivelled and embarrassed little man in the Bateman cartoon at whom everyone in the cocktail party is staring and pointing. The caption shall read: "The man who served on an uncontroversial book award." ! simply cannot see the five of us yelling or intriguing or playing the martyr when it comes to making our choices.

The Booker and Whitbread seem almost designed for these rows, with Julian Critchley and Rachel Cusk dashing off into print the moment the choce is made. Geordie Greig, book editor of The Sunday Times, has recently called into question the entile basis of the Whitbread selection process. Last year's AT&T, chaind by Alan Clark, which controvesially phumped for a dismal autobiography rather than Juliet Baker's muchtipped and brilliant life of the Bronte family, was no exception. I predict this year the ICR award will be professional, dishified, serious, harmonious if not manimous. and therefore instantly forgettable in the great saga of book brize rows. Andrew Roberts's novel the Aschen Memorandum is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Very

heaven

not to

be young

LOOF THE DEMON IN THE EYE: The Challenge of

IT IS aid that the fashion

designer Calvin Klein, when playing a word-association game and hearing the word

young immediately snapped forever. This would not en-

dear him to Angela Neustat-ter, who elieves in accepting the loss of youth without

Do notbe put off her book by its subitle, which contains

two of the most off-putting

words in the English lan-

guage: :hallenge and mid-life.

but shewrites engagingly and

you end up feeling better about niddle age, as I insist

on caling it, than you did

Nestatter sees the time when hildren have grown up, partneships have faded into the lumdrum and career

prospets are dwindling as a

perioc when kicking over the

traces might be permissible. Amore her 150 interviewees

are seeral who walked out on

their ommitments. A few of

them low feel regret but, what

personi growth. And most of them are happy that they listened to their body clock

and were brave enough to

make normous changes at

almost he last minute.

Neusatter does not under-

estimate the problems of the middle yars — the possible loss of lov, libido and looks —

as well as I hurtful invisibility

in the eye of the world that comes with the first grey hair.

But she deefully sniffs out signs of the changing times: more job oportunities for the middle-aget because there are fewer yding people; more notice taken them by adver-tiers.

tisers, not because they have suddenly falen for mature alliure but because of the

dizzying statitic that the over-

lifties "probatly own about 80 per cent of a the wealth in Britain". An example of this changed apprach is that the

supermarket dain that hired

Lesley Joseph in her role of

Dorien (the nyaphomaniac of

a certain age in the television

sit-com Birds of a Feather) to star in its commercials saw

sales zip through the roof.

demur.

By Angela Neustatter Michael Joseph, £17.99

The next time I see Paris

Jan Morris is captivated by a new, definitive guide to the City of Light that is good enough to eat

WE LIVE in the heyday of the guidebook - just as we live in the heyday of travel. True, the guidebook as a work of literature seems to be a dead notion: no Richard Fords are telling us what to expect of Valencians ("perfidious, vin-dictive and empty of all good"): no E. M. Forsters are advising us how best to look at Alexandria ("wander aimless-

Perhaps they already had a copy.

trilogy. It has been submitted.

which I am one of the five judges.

When the judges met for the first time at AT&T's headquarters on the

Marylebone Road in London just

before Christmas, Jeremy Paxman,

our chairman, set out a few, very

ly around the city").
In every other kind, though. the genre flourishes as never before. We have guides for the rich and guides for the indi-gent, for the cruise buff and the backpacker, for gays and for senior citizens. We have architectural guides more brilliant and informative than ever, and we even have solid, old-fashioned academic guidebooks, not perhaps as pilhy as the old Murrays and Baedekers, but still written by schol-ars for serious travellers. This week sees the publica-

tion of what one might call the flagship of this immense and wildly assorted fleet. A few years ago Gallimard, the venerable Paris publisher. launched yet another new kind of guide, intended to be more and more seductive than any. In England the series was adopted and adapted by Everyman Books. French in style and inspiration the series remains, nevertheless, and so it is proper that it reaches a climax now in the publication of the Everyman Guide to Paris, one of the most alluring guidebooks ever published.

As a souvenir of a visit somewhere, or as a book to read in bed at the end of the long day's tourism, the Everymans are unbeatable. They

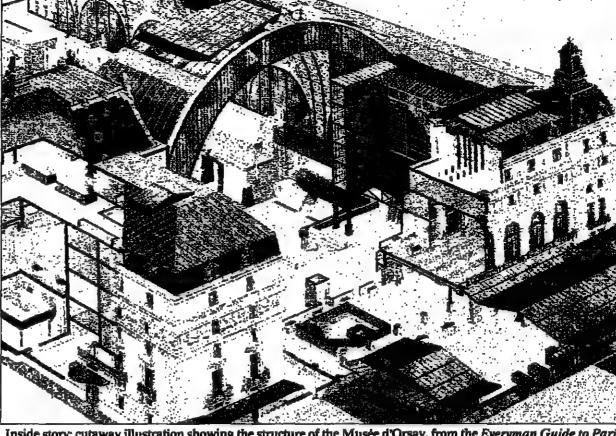
Everyman, £16.99

look lovely. They are elegantly printed on rich, shiny paper. They are virtuous examples of the designer's and cartographer's craft, and they assume an adult interest in every aspect of a place.

Not all the Everymans concern cities — some are about countries or regions, and there is one about Parisian restaurants - but they are best suited to the discussion of a metropolis, and though Paris is by no means my favourite city, the Everyman Paris is as good an example of the series as any. It feels and smells so good that, rather than spend a small fortune on some hypedup entrée in a conceited Paris restaurant, I would eat it.

The range of the book is astonishing. I am not sur-prised that more than 200 advisers, authors, researchers, illustrators, designers and photographers are acknowledged at the front. It contains hundreds of architectural drawings and cutaways, from Roman Lutetia to La Défense. discusses and illustrates street furniture, haute couture, gardens, wildlife, museums. women, department stores, the Seine and, of course, cuisine. There is a lovely portfolio of paintings by the great painters of the city. There is an anthology of quotations from writers as varied as Boswell, Joyce, Alice

B. Tokias and Evelyn Waugh. And there are also, though less satisfactorily, the conventional registers of a city guidebook: city walks delineated monument by monument,



Inside story: cutaway illustration showing the structure of the Musee d'Orsay, from the Everyman Guide to Paris

lists of shops, hotels, restaurants ("not the place for a casual tourist, but for people who really understand food. such as the sophisticated Parisians who . . . came to taste the caroaccio of langoustines with caviare" (ugh!)). The whole work is strewn with maps and glorious illustrations, and would make old Mr Baedeker, or John Murray. Esquire, turn in their graves with envy - or

embarrassment. For there is something a little embarrassing about these marvellous examples of biblio-technique. They are a little over-marvellous. They never let up. Intended as the

THIS week, Peter Heeg's Miss Smilla's Feeling for

Snow notches up one year in

the paperback chart. Briefly

nudged out by the the Pen-

guin and Phoenix 60p vol-

umes, it has now clocked up

the full 52 weeks. Good going

for a novel whose success

owes much to word of mouth

but whose author's name is

unpronounceable to all but

his fellow Danes. The nearest

very latest thing, they end up by being rather fin-de-siècle dix-neuvième siècle — like langoustines with caviare.

But these are the quibbles of a Welsh ascetic. If you love Paris, you will doubtless love this book, not as a transient aid to sightseeing or gourmandism, but as a reference book of great beauty and lasting fascination.

I am collecting all the Every-man city books, against the time when I can travel no more, and they will come and sit with me beside the fire and be my memory's guide.

CHART WATCH

Travel, pages 18 and 19

Faulks's elegant war novel

Birdsong, with 45 weeks. Meanwhile, Irvine Welsh-

mania continues, with both Trainspotting and Acid

The end of the festive sea-

son is firmly signalled by the arrival of Rosemary Conley's Complete Flat Stomach Plan

at No 17, and the end of the

festive hangover by the reap-pearance, at No ló, of Mal-

HARDBACK

House showing strongly.

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> outpouring of national affec-tion for him. This collection of his journalism since 1980 celebrates his wide interests, from history to marmalade, from religious belief to life up North and retirement. His erstwhile colleagues from Today read his work attentively, sometimes reverently.

MISSING JOSEPH By Elizabeth George read by Derek Jacobi Corgi Audio, £8.99 (3 hours) AN unchallenging murder mystery starts with a meeting between a vicar and Deborah St James in front of the Leonardo cartoon of the Vir-gin and Child at the National Gallery. They both wonder: where's Joseph? When Deb-orah and her husband visit the vicar, they find he is dead. Hints of witchcraft, violent sex

RUSSELL TWISK

THIS WEEK'S TIMES AND BARCLAYS PREMIER OFFER

TWO FOR ONE

ADMISSION TO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES Diagbilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes

at the Barbican Art Gallery, London EC2 This is the first exhibition to comprehensively examine the achievements of the great Russian impressario Serger Pavlovich Diaghilev (1872-1929), founder of the Ballet Russes, charting his versatile career chronologica until his eventual exile from Russia in 1914. It features over 300 works drawn from both public and private collections in Russia and the West, including some previously unseen in Britain. Admission £5 full price. £3 reductions Passport holders entitled to two for one admissio Barbican Centre, Gallery Floor, Silk Street Daily 10am-6,45pm, Tue 10am-5,45pm,



Survival Island

Sun 12 pm-6.45pm

at the National Museum of Photography. Film and Television, Bradford, West Yorkshire Explore the past, present and future of photography film and television this half-term. Visit Britain's largest cinema experience 'IMAX', and accompany David Attenborough as he explores the natural history of the Southern Ocean. Each year, during the short Southern Atlantic Summer, penguins, seals and albatross flock here in their thousands to

approaching Winter. Admission £3.90 adults. £2.70 children and concessions

breed and raise their young in a race against the

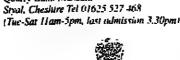
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and police corruption flesh out the Rendell-style mixture.

THURSDAY

John Bayley on the mysteries of English grammar, and Richard Dawkins on Carl Sagan

TIMES BOOKS

Neustatter las sensible things to say about preparing for retirement - although some of them sould alarming ly hearty. She does not try to convince fiftysomethings that the best is yet to come but suggests the possibility of growing old without feeling that even one toe il already in

PENNY PERRICK

When is a shop not a shop? Alway on Page 2 and in Weekand Money



Wrap up warm and drive to the limit of taste Page 10



How new exhaust tests have plunged into chaos



Page 2

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 1996

My unforgettable One for the road

Tony Dodgins, Grand Prix editor

of F1 Racing,

discovers what

Fl reality is like behind the wheel

yrell's regular driver, Mika Salo, paced about like some expectant father. He was worried about "his baby" having all its limbs.

The Finnish Formula One negotiate one of the 1995 cars for keeps at the end of its was seemingly fast approaching. The car was out there on a drenched Barcelona track in the hands of a journalist whose racing experience endurance Pro Karting.

Now, Pros weigh around 100 kilos and are powered by two 5.5bhp Honda generator motors; a Tyrrell-Yamaha 023 weighs 500 kilos and has a monstrous 700bhp. A power to-weight ratio roughly 13 times as great.

simply extreme folly? Could a mere mortal handle it? A man more used to climbing into a Sierra 4x4. A man whose painstaking preparation amounted to five laps of Barcelona in a Citroen Xantia Turbo Diesel the day before

When I pointed out we shared a birthday, a broad grin lit up the craggy features. "I just hope you're going to see a few

good. I'd piled up a Formula Ford and destroyed someone else's Lotus Cortina at Silverstone. "Have you any idea what you are letting yourself in for?" Tyrrell wanted to know. "The deal is this: we will insure the car and you will insure yourself. If a tyre goes down and you kill your-

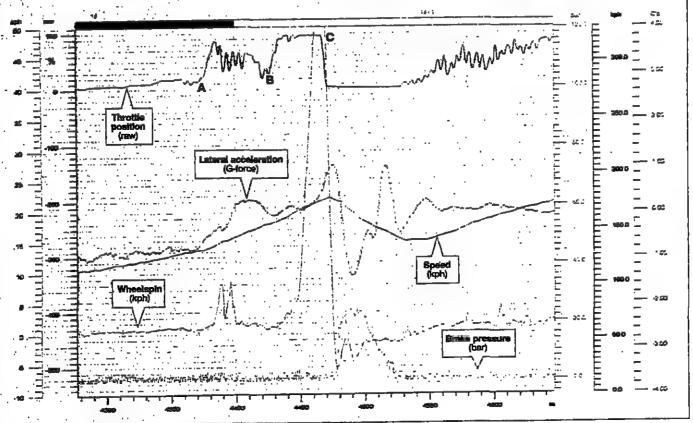
self — tough. We are not responsible."
"You've got him worried already," laughed managing director and technical boffin Harvey Postiethwaite as he scribbled in huge letters on a sticky memo pad which was then slapped on to my Filofax. RH-UP, LH-DOWN. It referred to gear shifting with the Tyrrell's steering mounted paddles — up the box with the right hand and down with the left. "Look at that every day between now and the time you drive our car."

The day arrived. I might be roughly the same height as Salo, but there it ended. Long body and short legs meant another 4cms on the crutch straps. Long indulgence and short exercise spelled another 6cms on the lap strap. But the pedal positions felt near perfect. I would only use the clutch to leave the pits, then forget its existence. However What you don't need with

700bhp is rain - but it was



The Tyrell crew prepare Dodgins for a journey round the Barcelona track with the warning, "We will insure the car and you will insure yourself. If a tyre goes down and you kill yourself — tough. We are not responsible"



Graph shows throttle position (percentage), side force (Gs), speed (kph), wheelspin (kph) and brake pressure (1 bar = 14.5lbs/sq in approx). Circuit map shows area of incident

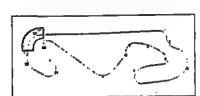
WHOOPS ... THIS IS HOW IT ALL WENT WRONG

a reading below zero is a force to the YOU'RE NEVER alone in a Formula right, above to the left. From a steady One car. Every move made by the driver and every effect on the car is monitored by sensors and stored in an onboard computer, writes Alan Copps.

During a race, this "telemetry" is transmitted live to the pit engineers. The graph on the left is an extract from the data for Tony Dodgins's last lap and shows what happened when he momentarily lost control. Harvey Postlethwaite, Tyrell's technical director, gave the explanation.

On the top border, green denotes the curve, white the straight. The scale at the bottom is the lap distance; our story starts at 4.280 kilometres. It spans the distance marked on the circuit map below. The top black line shows the throttle position. It is trailing close to zero as the car comes out of the corner at about 125kph (77mph), a speed denoted by the second black line.

At point A. Dodgins puts his foot down. The effect is seen on the blue line which shows the G forces on the driver:



level close to IG to the right in the corner, there is a quick shift to the left.
The green line indicates wheelspin. The kph scale on the left shows the difference between the speed of rotation of the rear powered wheels and that of the front wheels. That first prod on the

throttle sets the rear wheels spinning 7kph faster. The throntle then bounces as Dodgins tries to let the car settle and a moment later, at point B, he presses the throttle to the floor. With 700bhp blasting through the rear wheels, but little adhesion, the wheelspin goes off the graph. The speed rises to a peak close to 180kph (112mph) and the blue line

indicates a further shift to the left. At point C. Dodgins lifts his foot, the right thing to do, but so violently that the wheels lock. The throttle responds instantly and the wheelspin line shows the front wheels turning faster. But the red line for brake pressure then shows him doing, in Postlethwaite's words "absolutely the wrong thing". A stab on the brake sends the car's rear end slewing to the left, then to the right. The snap is repeated before he takes his foot off everything and gingerly resumes progress along the straight. In Postlethwaite's words: "The conditions

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Department of Transport tells thousands of centres to suspend 'cat' checks. Vaughan Freeman reports

Conflicting results bring chaos to new MoT pollution test

last month to target emissions on three-year-old cars fitted with catalytic converters is degenerating into a chaotic mess as drivers and motoring organisations report widespread discrepancies in test results.

This week the Department of Transport contacted 18.000 MoT testing stations telling them to temporarily suspend the emissions aspect of the test on thousands of K-registered cars. The moratorium will last from six to eight weeks while limits for the emissions test are revised after fresh talks with manufacturers.

The problem says the department is that information supplied originally by manufacturers as to the minimum emissions limits that regularly serviced cars would pass proved hopelessly optimistic. As a result thousands of cars registered for the first time on or after August I 1992, are unexpectedly failing, even if their catalysts

are in perfect order. A spokesman said: "It is vital have an MoT. To drive without one is illegal and will almost certainly invalidate their insurance." He added though that cars that go through the £27 MOT and are passed without having their emissions tested will nevertheless be road legal until their next MoT

next year.

The test discrepancies mean that emissions element of the MoT has been suspended for all K-reg catalyst-fitted Daihatsu, Ford, HMS Sports cars, Isuzu, Mazda RX7, Porsche, Proton, Rover, Subaru and TVR models, and for some Alfa Romeo, Aston Martin, Caterham, Fiat. Lada, Lancia and Mercedes-Benz models.

AA head of research and materials testing, John Stubbs, said: "We need this moratorium since clearly it would be unfortunate to take vehicles off the road. That is not the solution.

The AA is also concerned that the confusion over the emissions element of the MoT could underthat is not the only problem facing the new MoT, which introduced tough new emissions standards tailored to each model and make according to manufacturer's data, There are already cases of the same car failing the test on emissions at one MoT centre only to pass it at another.

Businessman Frank Benzin was stunned when his 1.4 litre Renault 19, first registered exactly three years ago, failed its first MoT at his local Renault dealership because of poor emissions. He instantly sought a second opinion and, half an hour later, without anyone having touched the car's engine, it passed at another garage without any difficulties.

The car, with 72,000 miles on the clock, has been regularly serviced and Mr Benzin, manager of the Conifers Printing Press company in South Devon, said that when he took it for an MoT he was totally confident it would pass. For it to fail, and then pass elsewhere he



Frank Benzin: "I couldn't believe it when it failed. So I went to another garage within half an hour and it passed with a different readout

sions element of the examination

was in total disarray. "I was sure the car would pass the MoT and couldn't believe it when it failed," he said. "So I went mund the corner to another garage within half an hour and it issed with a completely different

"Nationally a lot of people are going through the same problem. going to a garage where the emissions from their cars are being incorrectly measured, and as a result could be facing bills for a new catalytic converter of £200 to

"If motorists, like me, seek a second opinion, they could save themselves that money. The system, which is being introduced nationally, is clearly not 100 per

The trouble is that you have a computer telling the mechanic that the car has failed and he or she has to go on that, but computers cannot be 100 per cent accurate unless every detail of the procedure is followed precisely, and every garage must use the same technology. I am

"I think it is outrageous, and enough is enough. It doesn't look as if those in office have done their homework on this. I am all for clean air, but my experience shows

the system isn't working."
This year around 1.5 million Kregistered catalyst-fitted cars regis-tered on or after August 1 1992 will go through the new MoT, and initial estimates were that up to 20 per cent — as many as 300,000 would fail because their catalytic converter is broken, damaged, or is otherwise not working properly. Bills would average £200-£400, but with a Rolls-Royce it could cost

as much as £1.700 for a replace-

ment catalyst unit.
The Retail Motor Industry Federation's own estimation is that the failure rate because of emissions for cat-fitted cars will be between 16 and 20 per cent, and that 150,000 motorists will need replacement converters and another 150,000 will need remedial work.

Catalysts remove approximately 90 per cent of the three worst exhaust fume pollutants -- carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, which are major contributors to acid rain and

Motor racing, past, present and tuture

sport. He won Le Mans in 1960 in a Ferrari with fellow-Belgian Olivier Gendebien. After competing in sports and Formula One racing for Ferrari, Aston Martin, Porsche and Cooper he wrote one of the first text books on competition driving. He has been in the business of writing about cars ever

since, his enthusiasm undimmed at the age of 79. As the Formula One circus prepares for a new season that starts in Melbourne on March 10, he talks to Peter Miller about World Champion Michael Schumacher's move to Ferrari, Damon Hill's driving style and other topics. His tip for the driver's championship: Schumacher again.

Q: Can Schumacher do a hat-

A: There might be reliability brand new Ferrari and engine. But by mid-season in Canada I expect the car to be fully raceworthy. He will have to win several races after Montreal to clinch the title.

Q: Will you compare Schumacher with Avrton Senna? A: Entirely different characters, but both very professional and with their lives utterly concentrated on motor racing. That combination produces world champions.

O: How will Eddie Irvine relate with Schumacher at Ferrari?

A: Again, two opposing personalities - the dedicated champion paired with a more relaxed Ulsterman with numerous interests outside racing. Irvine will learn from Schumacher's ability to analyse the car's performance accurately and provide the specific information needed to set up his car for maximum

Q: Is Damon Hill an artisantype driver like his father.

Graham" A: Yes, Graham and Damon are identical drivers. Damon s not as naturally gifted as Michael, but, thanks to his concentration and will to win he is a top class driver. I don't think he got the sume help from his ream as Schumacher. Benetton trusted Schumacher's judgment utterly. If he pitted in practice, they listened to his suggestions. In my opinion, the Williams people didn't have the same faith in

his overtaking and puts himself in a compromising situation, is this a flaw? A: Yes, definitely. Overtaking has become more difficult and

drivers who can overtake at the right time and place have a distinct advantage.

Q: What about Jean Alesi? Is he too much of a charger? A: He certainly is a charger an acrobat at the wheel - but

was Tazio Nuvolari. Nuvolari, however, was an exception and most world champions are smooth drivers. I think Alesi can expect fierce opposition from his Benetton team-mate, Berger, who is very experienced and can be very fast if he thinks he has a race-winning car.

Q: Is sponsorship ruining Formula One? Are the top teams too rich? A: Sponsorship could be a

good thing, but unfortunately only the top teams get big money. They also get about 70 engines per season free. The "also-rans of pit-alley", who struggle for sponsorship and must buy their own engines. never get a chance. This year. Ferrari could be the dark horse, it all depends on how quickly the new car can be sorted. Incidentally, Ferrari is no longer as Italian as most people think. The overall project is in the hands of an Englishman. John Barnard: the engine designer is Osamo Goto, a Japanese formerly with Honda, and team manag-

er is a Frenchman. Jean Todt.

Q: Can the average continensive Formula One?

A: I don't think that Foca Formula One Constructor's Association — cares enough about encouraging race fans. Motor racing cannot survive through relevision audiences alone. It needs a live, enthusiastic crowd watching thrilling racing - because then it becomes real show business.

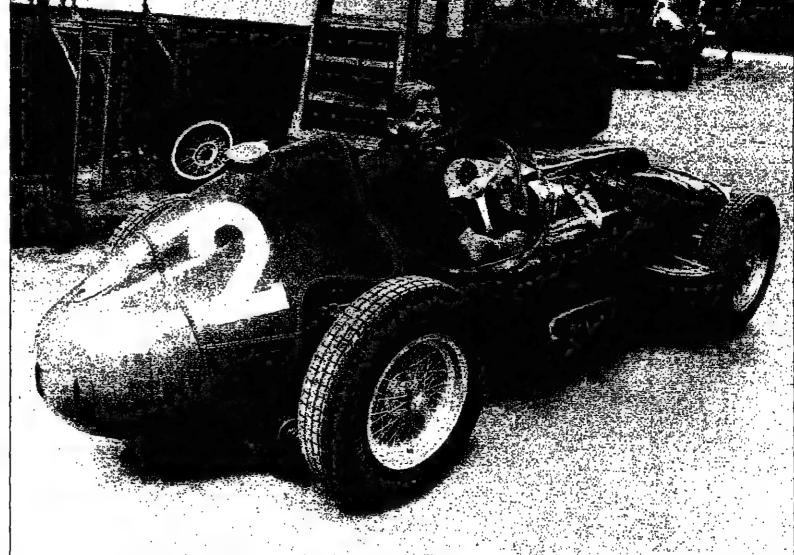
> O.: Are some drivers contributing sponsorship money and not being chosen on merit?

A.: Yes, this is a major problem. Formula One has two types of driver - those who are paid huge money for driving a car and those who inject considerable sums of money into the team kitty, just to get a drive. Their money often only lasts for a few grands prix, when they are replaced by another driver with sponsorship. So, when considering the also-rans, it doesn't follow that the better driver gets chosen.

O: But didn't Colin Chanman of Team Lotus often enter a driver 30 years ago? Weren't

they "rent-a-drives"? A: Not exactly. In those days, the automobile club organising the grand prix would often pay considerable starting money for a local driver to attract the crowds. Today, it is all in the hands of Foca and a 'super" licence is needed before any driver may enter Formula One.

Q: Are drivers like Schumacher really worth \$25 mil-



Paul Frere in his racing days: "The sport cannot survive through television audiences alone. It needs a live crowd — then it becomes real show business

A: It is entirely proportionate. If the sponsor considers the publicity from having its name on a winning car is worth the money the driver gets to achieve it, then that driver is worth the money paid. It might be argued that a research scientist who discovers a miracle cure for Aids, for example, is a pauper in com-

Mr Hill — but that is the harsh irony of life.

Q: Are data acquisition systems [telemetry] preventing good test drivers emerging? A: No, both are vital. Onboard computers constantly read every aspect of a car's performance and relay it back to another computer in the pits. When a driver comes in to the pits and reports personally, his engineer can quickly see where performance may be improved. It is also a vital safety factor, as a driver on the track can be given advance warning of a deflating tyre

Q: Foca has made pit-stops mandatory. Are too many crews at risk?

before a possible accident.

A: Definitely! in the 1950s. only two mechanics were allowed on the track and they did everything at a pit-stop refuelling, oil, change tyres while the team manager briefed his driver. If more than two mechanics worked on the car, it was immediately disqualified. Now the wealthy teams have at least 20 track personnel at every stop. This

causes severe overcrowding in the pit-road with the real risk of crew members being run over or trapped in an inferno of blazing fuel.

Q: Who were your favourite drivers? A: Without doubt, my top three would be Stirling Moss. Juan Manuel Fangio and

Advice: Tony Dodgins, left, with Harvey Postlethwaite

'I give it full throttle. The crew run for cover' tipping down. Tough. The track time was non-negotia-

ble. It was now or never. Cocooned low in the cockpit. I flick down the ignition switch and the Yamaha engineers fire it up from behind my shoulders. The external starter motor is plugged in and an air bottle is used to charge the pneumatic valves as an extra safety measure. There is none of the gut-wrenching vibrations you expect. The Yamaha, in fact, feels quite removed.

Time to go. I arm the gearbox electronics via a three-position switch on the right of the cockpit depress the clutch and flick the righthand gear paddle to select first. You need 3000rpm plus to prevent a stall and the pit apron glistens. Avoiding potential embarrassment, the mechanics push the car out and point it in the right direction. I determine not to

jerk to an embarrassing standstill, discover there is more clutch travel than I imagine. find the biting point and lurch away down the lane. I'm driving a Formula One car!

PLUMES of spray fan from the front tyres. The steering is direct, kart-like, but not heavy. That, though, is probably because I'm not going quickly enough to load it up. Down the hill into the slowest hairpin. my head is jolted by bumps. which in the road car hadn't even existed. Even on the overrun, with no throttle, the engine tries to push the tail

The run down into the Wurth chicane provides the first opportunity to get hard on the throttle. Trouble is, as the road kinks left a stream of standing water runs across the track. Even the likes of Senna and Prost have soun in a straight line in such condi-

tions, so I back off, turn into ers leave it later than 100 Wurth with practically no metres from 190mph! speed ... and the thing swaps The Wurth chicane ends instantly.

Time to radio in: "Don't worry. I haven't hit anything." i sit there on the grass feeling foolish while they come out with the air bottle and fire it up again. Then it's my first hill start in an Fl car. Back to the pits for a check over. Out again, and this time I

tickle it around before coming through on to Barcelona's mile-long straight for the first time. I get on to the throttle and wait for the earth-shattering explosion of power. But it's not as dramatic as I'd thought. That's because they've programmed the electronic throttie for delayed response and somewhat less than full power. But the brakes: they are simply phenomenal, hauling the speed down as I go on them at the 200 metre board from 150mph plus. Real driv-

The Worth chicane catches me out again, this time on the exit. Another spin. Another stall. Air bottle needed again and back to the pits. I ask for a more instant throttle and systems engineer Chris Hills flicks forward the throttle mode switch on the right of the cockpit. They also give me full power. With the scheduled hour fast evaporating, it's time

for my last run. Leaving the pitlane, I instantly feel the difference. Now the shifts from the pneumatic six-speed gearbox feel even more stunning. Flick, flick. I go from cog to cog in milliseconds, up and down. I come out on to the straight and give it 85 per cent throatle. How do I know that? Because the ensuing "moment" amuses the team so much that they expand it on the computer telemetry which monitors everything the car does. It's contact again, and I'm out of the ultimate spy in the cab. contact again, and I'm out of time. I've done two complete Instantly there is wheelspin,

so I back off, figuring the car must not have been straight. Convinced it now is, I give it full throttle. Suddenly I'm in a 1.5g tail-slapper as the car snaps left-right-left-right as quickly as you can blink. The Tyrrell crew run for cover,

THE steering inputs looked mighty interesting and the wheelspin was off the graph!" Postlethwaite explained later. "I don't know whether you knew much about it, but you did bloody well to get that back. It's not a nice feeling to lose an Fl car in the wet at 180kph. Ken had already sent for the ambulance

Chastened, I carry on with a suitably progressive and respectful application of right boot. Three-quarters of the way round the next lap, I spin once more, thankfully without

laps with a time for the threemile circuit that is 30 seconds away from Tyrrell's Ukyo Katayama, when he goes out in slightly drier conditions.

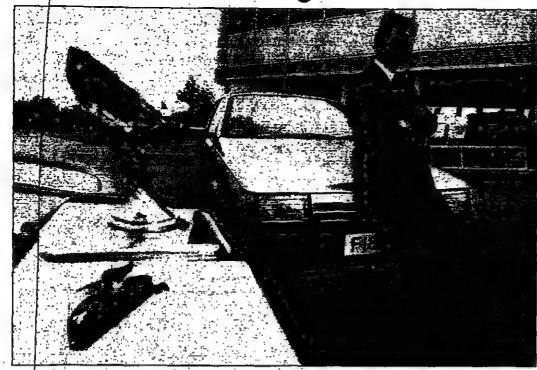
So, can the man in the street do it? On the basis of my efforts, not a chance. A spectating Martin Brundle summed it up: "You weren't going to heat the tyres or brakes, or go quickly enough to generate downforce. You can spin these things at the most pathetically slow speeds and, given the conditions, you were on a hiding to nothing. Having the confidence to drive it quickly means knowing it. And how do you get to know it? It's the

chicken and egg situation." From an article in 'Fl Racing', a new monthly devoted to Grand Prix racing to be published in English and German. The first issue will be available this Friday. Sebruan 16 pages 2205 February 16 price £2.95.

. Triffight

erry Cleveland-Peck joins our Drive in Luxury competition winner as his Fiat Tipo is transformed

A £1,500 inside job adds that Rolls-Royce feel



Joining the upper classes: Roland Roberts reflects on how his car might look after the experts have finished

at with the occasionil light aircraft, one or tvo small sports cars and the occasional craffmen at stratstone get some odd requests. vevertheless, a complet leather reit to an Pregistered Fiat/Tipo was challenge that they hadyet to tacke.

A the winer of The Times Drive in Luxuy competition, Roland Roberts, 40, a piano tuner technician and notoring enthusiast from Stamfor Lincolnshire was entitled to a corplete leather refit of a style and ct of his choice approximately £1,500 worth of leather craftscanship. The Times. spent the day ith him and his car as he toured he Stratstone Showrooms in serch of his dream Stratstone & Wilmstow, Chesh-

ire, established in 1909 as Stratstone of layfair and now part of the giant endragon group, is one of five anchises making up one of the latest Porsche, Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Viazda and Bentley dealerships uside London. The company's interior division specialises i a bespoke leather upholstery ervice. Seven fitters and one appentice can take a wide selection of ides and craft them into origini handmade leather interiors toxact requirements. As the brochue states: "The options are limit only by your

Imaginaon was in great demand whe Mr Roberts, wearing a stylish Ros-Royce tie; arrived at the Stratsne workshop with his 1989 Flat ipo 1.9 Tds. Greeted by Steve Gogh, the customer sales

manager, who suggested a look at some of the completed Stratstone interiors before making any decisions, Mr Roberts was chauffeured to the Ferrari, Porsche and Rolls-Royce showroom in a Silver Shadow to study some of the leather

On route, Steve Gough explained a little about the company's policy. We use the finest leathers from Connolly or Bridge of Weir, we don't compromise on quality. It has taken us a long time to get our team together and they now have over 90 years of experience."

Did this experience stretch to Flat Tipos? "No, we haven't done one of those before," Steve confessed. "Usually we get Mercedes Benz, Jaguars or BMWs whose owners want a leather interior put into their new cars — the new Rover

At the showroom, the prizewinner was momentarily sifinest thoroughbred driving machines available: a glearning Ferrari 512 M. an F-registered Testarossa worth £60,000, a 911 turbo and £63,000 worth of brand new Porsche 911 Targa, with glass sliding roof — clearly, there was no shortage of inspiration for Mr Roberts's interior.

Deciding that a pragmatic approach was the only suitable method for discerning the needs of the posterior. Mr Roberts positioned himself behind the wheel of a recently registered black Bentley Brooklands, complete with whitewalled tyres. Looking replete, he volunteered that the Bentley was "quite comfortable really", to which

the Stratstone team, appreciating that they were not miracle workers, appeared worried.

Still, either unsatisfied, or perhaps relishing this new-found in-dulgence, Mr. Roberts took up the driving seat of a brand new Ferrari 456 GT, a car he describes himself passionate about. Worth £157,000 and delivering a performance which takes it to 60mph in 5.2 seconds, the four-seater Ferrari demonstrated an example of superior motoring luxury.

Back at the workshop, a long,

low, rectangular room, smelling strongly of leather and resin and home for a while to a Porsche 911, a Mercedes-Benz 220 and now Mr Roberts's Tipo, headcraftsman Evan Pugh took stock of the metallic green/grey Fiat (with a Ferrari badge on the passenger wing and Mercedes Cclass wheel trims) as he explained details of how the installation procedure is carried out.

Tirst we remove the seats, door-panels, headlining and dashboard, he explained. Then we unstitch the seat covers and sew on the selected hides. We use a nylonbonded thread and a variety of stitches - mostly a saddle or face stitch for a strong, doubled-lined

"Gearsticks and steering wheels are hand-sewn with a cross-stitch. On average it takes one person a week to complete the interior of a vehicle. Door panels 30 on last and, if necessary, incorporate a stitched pattern in order to break up the bulk. Similarly with the headrests." The choice of hide is down to the





After: "Better than I ever imagined it would be, the workmanship is amazing. My car is unique and, at the very least, smells like a Rolls-Royce'

individual, Connolly leathers tend to be softer and are of the type usually found in Jaguars, Aston Martins, Rolls-Royces and Ferraris, Bridge of Weir hides have a slightly more defined grain and are found in Saabs, Volvos and, at one time, Lotus vehicles,

Outside the hide-room, the Stratsone team waited to hear Mr

Roberts's final decision. Discussing the metallic green colour of his car with tongue in cheek, he inquired into the quantity and shades of purple hides available, which raised a few eyebrows around the workshop and provoked a distant muttered response of "must be a

mate of Stevie Wonder." in the end, Mr Roberts selected a

set of bottle green Bridge of Weir hides with ruffled seat centres, flat borders and black piping. Stitching around the armrests broke up the duor panels. Green headrests with black piping finished the job. And when everything was completed. an extremely satisfied Mr Roberts said that his Fiat Tipo, which he bought three years ago and now

has 104,000 miles on the clock, looked "better than I ever imagined it would be". Before its makeover it was worth about £2,600. He added: "The standard of

workmanship is amazing - they have done a really good job. My car is unique and, at the very least, it smells like a Rolls-Royce." Stratstone Of Wilmslow, 01625 532678

Trust your luck in the year 2000 as cars enter the age of green



Colour codedfrom left, PPG's Rainer Becher, Mike Mudge and Janis Brennen

Superstitious motorists should steer clear of the new car market in 1999. According to predictions at last week's 1999 Colour Show. green - once considered as turers from all over the world unlucky as a broken mirror or the number 13 - will be the year's trendiest car colour.

Automotive colour styling consultant, Mike Mudge said: Despite being traditionally thought of as unlucky, green cars have rocketed into third place in the popularity stakes. after red and blue."

The percentage of green cars in the UK has risen from 4.2 per cent in 1990 to 17 per cent. Red accounts for 25.4 per cent and blue 23.7 per cent. Even fleet buyers, who have tradi-tionally bought white cars in bulk, are not immune to the new trend. "For years the top three car colours have been red, blue and white, but the popularity of white has been propped up by the company car market and environmentally-friendly fleet managers are now looking to green,"

The PPG Industries Colour Show, held annually in Europe, North America and the Far East, predicts car trends three years ahead and launches new colours. Chances are high that you wwill not have heard of PPG (Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries), but you'll find its products on your own car. Two-thirds of the vehicles in the Western world use PPG Industries' automotive coatings; it is the largest supplier of car paint in the

At the 1999 Colour Show more than 100 new colours

Helen Mound checks the forecasts

of the millennium's trendy shades were on display for manufac-

earthy

colours'

to consider using on the new cars they have planned for the next millennium. The colours on offer in the UK, US and the Far East vary because of different tastes; motorists in the Far East prefer shades of silver and grey, while most . Launching a new colour is a European countries have reds at the top of their list. Weather

conditions also af-There's ours that look good in the UK can look grubby in Califora move nian sunshine. The show gives towards

manufacturers a colour palette for their new cars. so that carpets, seat rrim and interior plastics can be designed to suit predicted fash-

onable colours. In Italy the PPG range is so successful that Lancia has picked 112 colours for its Y10 hatchback. But manufacturers sometimes make hasty choices, like the "Sahara Desert" Land Rover chose to add a high profile to the launch of its new Range Rover. The lurid gold is complex and very costly for PPG Refinish to produce in small quantities for individual paint

As well as predicting green as the colour for 1999, 44 new UK colours were launched this year, including 15 shades of

bright apple. There are also several new browns and violets on offer, but not many blues, greys and yellows. Two new paint effects were also announced, micro mica and coloured aluminium (a metallic paint with coloured flecks

tricky business; Mudge, alongside European and American colleagues

Rainer Becher and Janis Brennen shows the colours off using giant jelly moulds known as "speeding images" shapes designed to accentuate the curves of a car.

Other colours are on panels similar to car doors and each is displayed among photographs of the influences that helped to create them, such as women's fashion, travel destinations, plants

and food. Mudge explains how the research for each show takes more than a year: "We're already looking at the colour trends for 2000. The majority of our influences come from women's fashion, we look at magazines and fashion shows.

The traditional notion of space age silver lashions and grey cars is proving out-dated for the year 2000: "Currently we're seeing a move towards green, ranging from olive to more natural earthy colours.

but also interior design."

fashion for women's clothes, and as these colours tend to translate into the car industry over three or four years, we expect to see more green and millennium."

In the six years Mudge has presented the Colour Show, he believes the major breakthrough has been mica paint: "It involves three-dimensional spheres which are translucent. so not only can they reflect a certain amount of light, they also let light through, allowing be developed. The micro micas will improve on that brightness.

T itimately we're interested in developing new cliects, as they allow for new colours. In the late Eighties the split between solid colours and micas or metallics was 60/40, now it's more like 40/60, because the choice of mica metallic colours is so much wider. With the use of micro mica, we expect to see even more exciting colours being developed,"

Standing out of the bright lights and general hubbub of the show, Gary Picken, UK Business Development Manager for PPG Automotive Refinish, is a little solicitous. "Once these colours and effects have been invented, the difficult part is making sure we can make them in small quantities for car dealership bodyshops. They have to be easy and affordable to repair."

No surprise, then, that under PPG's advice. Land Rover has left the Sahara Desert.

PAINT CHART

How you are the colour you drive

THE British taste for red which accounts for more than a quarter of all cars on the mad, is shared by most other European countries.

Surprisingly for such a last year by a leading insurance company concluded that red signifies an ambitious driver who dislikes routine. In the Far East white is more popular, especially in Japan

where it is a symbol of purity. But when it comes to status, Henry Ford was right: black is the colour to be seen in it you want to appear successful or, of course, if you can afford a chauffeur. There is a price to pay, however, because it also carries a higher risk of theft. Blue is the second most popular colour. Said to indi-

life, it is much favoured by current Ford drivers. Silver is another shade favoured by the successful who want to be less discreet than

cate a conventional attitude to

those who favour black. Striking recent additions to the colour range include or ange and purple which are proving popular for the MG/ and a wonderful mustard for the Fiat Punto. But if you really want to be noticed ther vellow is for you. The perfec shade for the show-off.

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CAR ... TOONS

13 QUENTIN 424 TARANTINO'S NEW B

Vaughan Freeman reports on a scheme to take the pain out of being an inner-city car owner

Instant rentals on your own doorstep

torist. But the answer could lie in two "Street Fleet" pilot projects — currently being tested in Bremen, Germany - in which small fleets of cars will be on hand for rent by those taking part

Local authorities will ensure that the cars have guaranteed parking spaces in inner-city areas of London's Haringey, and also in Edinburgh, where it is hoped the pilot schemes will be launched. Those taking part will be able to book the cars, provided by a rental firm, such as Hertz, and with routine servicing carried out on the spot by RAC patrols. Gordon Stewart, Hertz

Rental UK marketing manager, sees such schemes as a natural extension of existing Hertz pilots in Paris, Amsterdam and Rome, where drivers who are fed up with trying to park their own cars, instead buy booklets of vouchers entitling them to rent as and when they wish.

Transport expert John Adams, of University College London, said: The idea is based on the fact that if you drive fewer than 10,000 kilometres a year you are probably better off renting a car when you need one than owning your own. The average car spends 95 per cent of its time parked. All that time owners are paying insurance and road tax, and incurring depreciation.

"In Germany the Stadt-Auto Street Fleet scheme is quite 'low tech'. In Bremen the cars are parked in local streets, and near them is a wall safe with the keys inside. Members of the project have keys to the safe, and make their bookings via a local 24-hour taxi despatcher's office."

Supporters of the schemes point out also that they reduce overall car use. Most car owners use their vechiles for even the shortest journeys based only on the cost of the fuel, ignoring the whole-life costs of running a vehicle.
Adams says: "If each time one

laying hunt-the-park- was faced with the average for a borough like ours where ing-space is the bane cost per mile when renting a of the inner-city movehicle, that makes the cost of sure on street parking." the pubic transport option

more competitive." The Bremen experiment now has almost 1,000 participants who have access to 48 vehicles and pay a monthly club membership charge of £10 for two people, with use of the car priced at £1.40 per hour plus 17p per kilometre to cover fuel and servicing costs.

Haringey Council transport engineer Chris Bainbridge said it was hoped that funding for their pilot could be raised from the European Community, adding: "Such a scheme is

RAC spokesman Ed King, who has been active in promoting the Street Fleet idea, added: "Street Fleet is aimed at urban areas where there is already a good public trans-port infrastructure, where cars are hardly used at all during the week, but where people want a car at weekends to visit relatives, go mountain-biking in the country or get their weekly shopping."

Typical cars in a Street Fleet might include a Mini-sized town car, a family saloon, and a larger people mover such as

King added: "We would be the first to accept that this idea France or Italy. is not going to change the world, but it might free up We get the impression that

not they need a car."

sounded a note of caution,

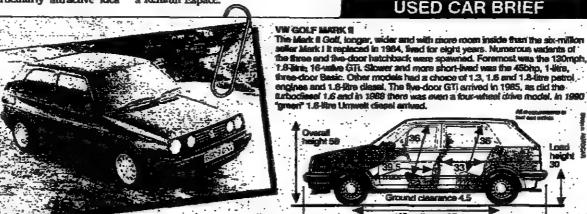
pointing out that their own research showed motorists in

the UK were far more reluc-

and to seek alternatives than

people in the UK appreciate parking in towns and reduce congestion, and make people having their own car. he said. "The willingness to car-share, think twice about whether or evident on the Continent, At Hertz Rental, Stewart here yet and motorists here said they would be delighted to work with any partners in an don't seem comfortable with the idea of public transport." effort to make such projects work in the UK. But he

He added though that such schemes would become more appealing if inner-city parking became even more difficult, and if motorists took a close and clear-eyed look at the true of using their car.



on a par with the Votes 300

GL. The 1-litre model is basic and underpowered, and Honda Civic, and after insurance premiums (Group of most dvals including the zance and good rea 15 to 18 for the GTI against. Vauchell Astra, Paugeot 306, Group Seven for emailer. Mazde 323 and Ford Escon. engined Golle) a nightmere. velues. High insurance.

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tor a 1990 1.8-lips CL. See-door, ES, 750 for a 1991 1.8-lips GTI five-door, and £7,250 for a 1992 GTI

Look for post-1990 lacelified models with top-or-range motosis, rull service, history for the GTI is a must. The 1.6 and 1.8-fitre (non GTI) petrols, and Unwell turbodiesel cars, make the best Got package. Solidly built and engineered for reliable motoring, the highly-raised GTI option adds-

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	Saab 900i 16V Convertible		19150	0.00
ı,	RMW 325i Auto	19150	18950	1.05
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ıŧ	Ford Granada 2.9 Scorpio V6 24V	17850	18195	2.49
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e I.	Nissan Patrol GR SGX Diesel 5dr	19150	19395	1.27
	Mitsubushi Sigma 3.0 V6 24V Auto	18695	18895	1.06
	Mercedes Benz C180 Classic Auto 4dr		18095	0.00
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ď	BMW 320i 4dr Auto		17295	-1,45
•	BMW 525i 4dr Auto	20750	20500	-1.20
h	Citroën XM 2.5 YD VSX Estate	15795	15595	-1.26
. 1	Ford Maveruck 2.7 GLX T/D 5dr		15295	0.29
h	Honda Legend 4dr Saloon Auto	24750	24750	0.00
e	Isuzu Trooper 3.2i 5dr	16195	16250	0.33
g	Land Rover Discovery Dies.300 TDi.	16150	16150	0.00
4	Mazda Xedos 6 2.0i V6 SE 4dr Auto	16250	16095	-0.95
•	Mazda MX-6 Mercedes Benz E220 Auto 4dr	15195	15250	0.36
e	Mercedes Benz E220 Auto 4dr	21250	21000	-1.17
-	Mitsubushi Shogun V6 5dr 2972cc		19795	-0.50
	Peugeot 605 V6 SVE 4dr 24V	16095	15850	-1.52
	Honda Legend 2dr Coupe Auto	25500	25500	0.00
П	Nissan 2.0 Touring Coupe 2dr 200 SX		17250	-1.42
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]]	Vauxhalf Omega 2.5i V6 CDX Estate	13830	17450	1.15
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Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer torscount prices.

HS = halorback S = saloon Price changes based on M-reg.

low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

READERS of Caravan Life have voted the diesel-powered Land Rover Discovery Tdi their best towcar for the second year running. With the V8 Discovery and the 4-litre V8 Range Rover also in the top ten, the company was clear winner in the vote for "favourite towcar manufacturer". The runner-up was Volvo and others in the top ten, in descending order, were: Vauxhall, Ford, Citroën, Rover, Mitsubishi, Toyota,

Peugeot and Jeep.

Runner-up for

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Shogun 2.8 TD, followed by the Discovery V8, Vauxhall Senator 3-litre, Citroen Xantia 1.9TD and 4-litre Jeep Cherokee, Range Rover and Toyota Land Cruiser. Peter Wyhinny.

towcar was the Mitsubishi

Rover's commercial director, said: "We are delighted to be among the winners for the second year running, and it is all the more rewarding that in this case the judges are the buying public. We listen hard suggest improvements."

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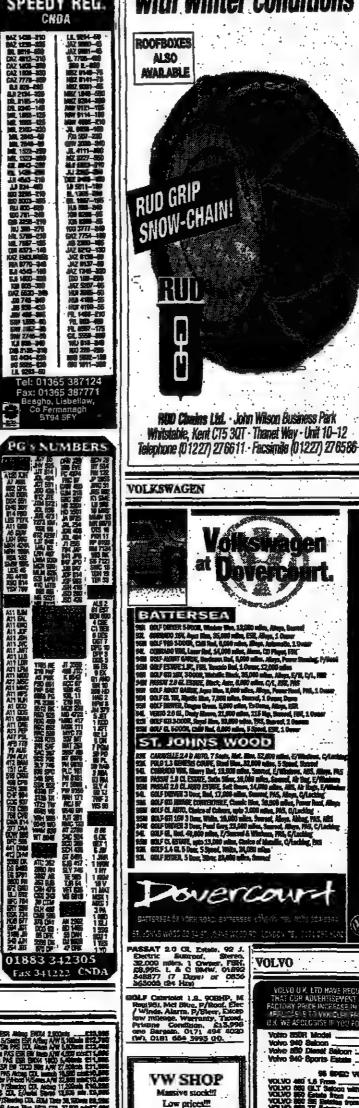
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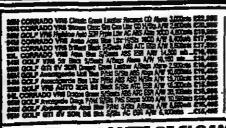






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SCOTTS OF SLOANE SQUARE... OF COURSE SLOANE SQUARE 0171 730 2131 - STOCKWELL 0171 737 7133

AA CHIDLOCK GUDE

LONDON A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with a contration between Hilary Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout in White City. A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton, Major road-works continue over the Lea

Valley viaduct.
A406 North Circular Road,
Finchley. Major roadworks
continue with various restrictions.

A1000 junctions.
A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Constructions of the M11 link road continues, with east-bound reduced to a single lane

bound reduced to a single lane between the Redbridge round-about and High Street.

A4 Great West Road, Chiswick, Between 9pm and 6am Monday-Thursday nights reduced to one lane each way for repairs to elevated section of the Mat about. the M4 above.

& SOUTH-EAST M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause langthy

tailbacks daily. M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane clo-sures and contraflows between junctions 6/8 and 9/10. A247 Surrey. Roadworks on street between Clandon Station

and Clandon Park. Long delays expected during peak times. A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on Wellingborough Road in Olney, at junction with

Lavendon Road.
A27 East Sussex. Major road-works at Firle, between Selmeston and Lewes, with temporary lights. A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of

Sittingbourne often cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.
A36 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southarder. Southampton.

 SOUTH-WEST M4/M5 Avon. Work on the new second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

M32 Avon. Contradiow for major reachands between into

jor roadworks between junctions 1 and 2. Southbound entry stip at junction 1 also closed off-peak.

A4 Avon. Lane restrictions and temporary lights over the Newbridge Bridge, Bath.
M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22. A30 Comwell, Readworks and a contrallow near Bolventor.

northbound between junctions A377 Devon, Roadworks continue around Eggesford, between Exeter and Bernstaple,

MICLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA works continue between junc-tions 5 and 6 with lane

 $\lim_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi d_t} = 2\pi - 2^t$

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contratiow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island. A563 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contrallow on Lubbersthorpe Way, Laicester between the Dumbell Island and the A47 Hinckley Road

junction. A1 Nottinghamshire. Road-An Nottingharnshire. Road-works on Apley Head round-about near Worksop cause regular peak-time delays. A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks: at Terrington St. John, and at Swaffham. A11 Norfolk. Construction of the near Marcadharn.

the new Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough. ■ NORTH

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and ontraflow at end of the motorway at junction 47.
M6 Cheshire. Wideniag work continues between junctions 20 and 21.
M6 Greater Manchester Road. M6 Greater Manchester. Road-works and lane closures be-

tween junctions 24 and 26. M6 Lancashire, Lane closures in both directions between junctions 28 and 31 for work on the J65 extension. A5063 Greater Manchester

Major roadworks and lane clo-sures on Trafford Road, near the Junction with Pomons A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1

and Rothertean. A167M Tyneside. Northbound lime clorums on the Newcastle Central Motorway near the Jesmond Road interchange for WALES

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24. A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at

Morrisfor. A483 West Glamorgan, Major roadworks and contrallow on Fabian Way, Swanses between Elba Crescent and Earlswood

A4229 Mid Glamorgan. Roadworks and temporary lights between Cornelly and

A547 Gwynedd, Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Liandudno e SCOTLAND

MS Strathctyde. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 26 and 27. Bridge in Glasgow is closed southbound for repairs. M90 Tayaide. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane cloaures in both directions. O NORTHERN IRELAND County Tyrone, Roadworks on the Omach Bypass at the junction with Derry Road.

& Jame Stely

NEWS IN THE PARTY IS

Taxing question

MOTORISTS should be told exactly how much of what they pay

for fuel is going into the Chancellor's pocket, say the AA and RAC. Less than one-third of the £24 billion raised in tax at the

petrol pump is spent on transport. A joint campaign to highlight

the facts was launched during a debate on transport policy with Jonathon Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth, at the

National Motor Museum. Beaulieu yesterday. Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive officer, said: "Despite the fact that the

majority of motorists consider the car a necessity, the Treasury

JOHN BARNARD, technical director of Ferrari, who has also

designed for McLaren, Lola and Benetton in a career spanning

more than 25 years in motor sport, has been made a Roya

Designer for Industry (RDI), a rare honour awarded by the Royal Society. His designs included the first all-carbon fibre

chassis for McLaren and pioneering use of the electronic shifting

Energy conservers

THE new BMW 5-series: to be launched in Britain in April, will

be fitted with energy-saving tyres developed by Continental. The

German company claims that the ContiEcoContact tyre offers 25

per cent less rolling resistance than its previous range, paving

MORE than 50 insurance companies are now offering discounts

of up to 20 per cent to motorists who fit their cars with Securiour

TrakBak, the advanced protection, tracking and recovery

system, which features a sophisticated immobiliser and an automatic tell-tale signal if a thief defeats it.

continues to tax it as if it is a luxury."

gearbox by Ferrari.

Barnard honoured

the way for major savings in fuel consumption.

Savings for security

The work to avoid this carried out "without charge"

hecking would take about an hour and a half, during which time a safety valve would be installed in the heater. But further work might be needed. Some recalled cars were found to need a new heater matrix, requiring a second, longer visit.

Because of the numbers involved - more than 200,000 cars in the UK - VW has been conducting this recall in waves, over nine months. Even so, it is not the biggest recall of the past year. That is credited to Vauxhall, with more than 600,000 Astras called in to check on a potential fire risk, caused by posrefuelling, as well as another problem which could cause

Recalls are an irksome thorn in the side of the motor industry. They are costly, time-consuming and common Last year there were 91 vehicie recalis, 53 of them involving cars, with buses

commercial. venicles accounting for the test; that is a 50 per cent increase since 1980. The total number of vehicles involved in 1995

Notoriously, a small percentage of owners never respond to recall notices, even after several reminders. Although some of those vehicles may no longer be in use perhaps long since scrapped or exported — it still leaves worryingly high numbers of cars on the roads with poten-

It began when I found a hole in the exhaust; one arm and one leg (plus VAT) later, I was reporting to the station

A paper chase with the police

art, my latest escapade imitated the modern televisual art of Victor Mildrew. Indeed the phrase "I don't believe it" was passing from my larynx across my tongue when it turned into a resigned laugh, for the ability to see the funny side is becoming part of the standard-issue motoring kit.
What I needed was a new exhaust.

So I went to an industrial estate where people with new exhausts tend to locate themselves. I knew the front section had a hole in it, but exhaust-types can always find two more holes, each of which is in a So I needed all three bits, but the

exhaust type only had bits one and three. I decided to go elsewhere. I drove away ... and was pulled over by the police. "I've stopped you for having a

noisy exhaust," said the officer.
"I don't bel ..." I started. "Yes I know. I've just been down to get one but they didn't have all the parts, so now I'm going to

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

credit. He will have heard this explanation a thousand times, but his face betrayed not a hint of worldweariness. In fact he looked as if he believed me, perhaps on the basis that the truth is stranger than fiction. He then came out with the dread words "routine check". Lights, brake lights, tyres and so on. Now. when you write a column like this, which is often about the ludicrious behaviour

of other people you get letters

enjoy the next bit.

Your front tyres are illegal, sir". I didn't believe it. It appears that while my back was turned the authorities decreed that you had to have Lomm of tread as opposed to imm. My front tyres would have passed the old measure, but not the new one.

The police in Wiltshire have an enlightened policy. Instead of prosecuting you for having dodgy tyres,

get them replaced, they issue a form which has to be stamped by an MoT station to confirm the work has been done. You send it off to the police within 14 days and no more is said. So I drove straight back to the

exhaust type — he is also a tyre type — and after a bit of joshing about him ringing up the police whenever people with noisy exhausts disdain his services he fitted two tyres. Later I had the exhaust replaced, paid the

one leg, plus VAT - got the form stamped by an MoT station and sent it off. So that was all right.

What was not all right was the other part of the routine check: one's documents. I carry a driving licence, but not the insurance and registration document. Incidentally, people who carry photocopies of these in their cars are wasting their time: the police won't accept them.

So I had to produce the documents within seven days and discovered when I did so that the police station I nominated - in a small market town - has to deal with this procedure 3,000 times a year. I am all for people having the right documents, but police stations are pressed enough without having this tedious procedure added to their duties.

Several police officers I have spoken to would like to see the American system introduced. Over there, cars carry a disc on the windscreen which has all the relevant information: owner's name, registration document number, insurance details and so on. Thus the driver only has to carry his or her licence and in America (fly-drive tourists please note) you will certainly be prosecuted for not doing so.

As my campaign to have road tax abolished shows no sign of bearing fruit, perhaps the DoT would at least amend the disc to carry more information, thus saving motorists

What can the matter be?

Sue Baker joins the thousands of

motorists asked

to bring their cars back because

something's wrong

he garage service re-ceptionist was cheerfully candid. This is all becoming a bit of a silly nightmare for us. It has been going on for months. We keep booking cars in, but some of them need parts that we're still waiting to arrive from Germany."

-i-had telephoned to book in my Golf for a safety inspec-tion, as urged by Volkswagen last week. Their letter alerted me to my car being subject to a recall, although that word was not used. VW called it a "safety

My car had been identified as one which, if operated over a prolonged period with an overheating cooling system. might suffer a ruptured heat exchanger. In other words, if the car had not been looked after and was consistently run with the engine too hot, the heater might one day split and cascade scalding water over my feet.

alarming prospect would be - but apparently not without inconvenience. The first available appointment was two weeks away, the chatty recep-tionist informed me. "We're snowed under with all this."

sible static sparking during the airbag to fail to operate.

> A small percentage of owners never

recalls was 1,190,611.

tially hazardous faults. The Society of Motor Manu-



More than 18,500 Fronteras - among 640,000 Vauxhalls recalled during 1995 - needed a faulty bonnet catch fixed



Volkswagen urged a safety check on 237.000 of its Golf models after a heat exchanger problem was discovered

facturers and Traders takes pride in the response to recalls in Britain, which it claims is among the best in the world. Under a Code of Practice established in 1979, manufacturers regularly meet a target of 90 per cent recall response. But that still leaves a significant shortfall. Based on last year's figures, it means there were potentially nearly 120,000 owners who neglected

154 Bentleys.

Ford scored the highest

USA IS SO SHIPLE THAT

80% OF 14 YEAR-CLOS

to react to manufacturers' pleas to have their vehicles checked for known safety hazards. Sean Wadmore, the SMMT's consumer affairs manager, says Britain's

record compares well with the Unirespond ted States, where recall response is nearer 35 per cent, but he is not complacent.

"Manufacturers aim to achieve a 100 per cent response, but some vehicles will always slip through the net.

"A major problem is the failure of people to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency when a car changes hands. The details of ownership that manufacturers obtain from the DVLA are only a snapshot, and some are inev-

aftersales manager, is Vaux-Even the most prestigious marques do not escape having hall's man in the recall hot seat says it is the result of to recall cars. Rolls-Royce had becoming more proactive in identifying potential problems which could arise during a two instances last year. The first affected the steering linkage of just one car, the second car's lifespan.

You cannot say it is a was to check front seatblets on

number of recalls over the past he adds. "We are consistently building better vehicles, but year, with nine, ranging from inevitably human problems can still creep in. If a man wheel nut fault on 176 Mavericks to a vacuum pump problem on 17,799 Fiestas, Escorts and Mondeos. working on 50 or 60 cars an hour starts putting a nut and bolt on the wrong way round, it very quickly affects a lot of vehicles." Vaunchall, which announced its first recall of this year last weekend, topped the list for

the overall number of cars The SMMT operates a recalls hotline. Ask for Consumer Affairs Department 0171 235 7000. Top affected during 1995: more than 640,000, Brian Setchell -who, as product quality 1995 recalls were:

failure to have to recall a car,"

Vauxhall Astra: (601,131 cars) fuel pipe/airbag. VW Golf/Jetta: (237,000) heater Nissan Primera: (75,000) front brake hoses. Land Rover: (55,993) seat belts. Peugent 306: (32,067) accelerator

VW Passat/Golf: (28,128) Ford Escort: (23,000) rear brake cylinder. Mercedes E-class: (22.824) passenger footrest. Vauxhall Fronsera: (18,565) bonnet catch. Ford Fiesta/Escort/Mondeo: (17,799) vacuum pump. Ford Mondeo: (15,755) fuel pipe. Vauxhall Astra: (14,649) wiring

Vauxhall Omega: (12.607) fuel pipe. Ford Fiesta: (11.760) brake light.

Going too far can reduce the chances of children

Vaughan Freeman

enters a fertile area

igh-mileage male drivers have been given iem all about" advice by fertility experts in an effort to help prevent them developing problems they may experience in becoming a dad.

Sitting for hours every day at the overheated wheel of a company car or as a service engineer, or cooking gently in a lorry cab, legs clamped together, has been shown to reduce the chances of would be fathers.

Research in France shows that the partners of men who up to 10 per cent longer to conceive. The Paris research concludes that this is because the testicles of drivers become unnaturally warm as they sit at the steering wheel, which can have the effect of lowering the sperm count.

Peter Bromwich of the Midland Fertility Services says high mileage driving can reduce sperm count by a few per cent: "At the margins, having semen problems is a difficulty where driving too much makes semen less good. Wives of such men, instead of getting pregnant in four months, might get pregnant in five or six months

Tor drivers who are concerned, he advises them to restructure their day. and plan journeys so that they spend less time at the wheel: If they are having to drive a lot, then every couple of hours stop the car. get out, walk around, shake their testes up and let some cool air in.

"It was first noticed when people looked at the Teamsters' Union in the United States and found that truck drivers who did more than 25,000 miles in a year were less fertile than those who drove fewer than 25,000 miles

Mr Bromwich explained that the testes work better when they are cooler and men are designed so that they hang outside the body. Blokes are designed not to wear anything in that area, and for the testes to hang free away from the body and to keep cool."

However, Mr Bromwich stresses that alcohol and cigarettes are far more likely to reduce the efficacy of sperm. and new fertility techniques mean that even the highestmileage drivers have a chance of fathering.

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long



THE GALLY SHE HOWEY ROYCE ALLOWED THE BROUGH SUPERIOR TO BE ADMED ACLES". PERMISSION WAS INTERPRED W 1935 WASH BROWN SONORD BUILDING CARS



CARLS

It resembles a lemon drop on wheels and driving it is like being in an RAF Phantom. Kevin Eason reports

Tax disc? Look, I haven't even got a windscreen

y mind was focused on the curves, the gearchange and the split-second decision that would be the difference between braking in time and a

visit to the gravel trap.

There I was, dressed like a cross between an Eskimo and Michael Schumacher, ready to confront Renault's new Sport Spider, a 135mph open two-seater of such radical design that it will drop jaws all over Europe this year.

But I had other things on my mind. I mean, there are all these clever design chappies working away on a megabudget and they come up with a car that looks like a lemon drop on wheels — and there's still nowhere to stick the tax disc. As well as no roof, there isn't a windscreen either.

Renault launched its Sport Spider this week at the Paul Ricard circuit, near Marseille. The French company has one of the most flamboyant and interesting design teams in Europe and, apparently, a management prepared to produce vehicles which push the boundaries of taste to a seldom explored limit.

The Spider should, by all conventions, never have been built. Carmakers show concept models like it all the time at motor shows claiming they are the future — then go off and make something that looks as interesting as a milk float. Renault actually did it with the Spider, making a cartuit autility and the spider.

with the Spider, making a car quite unlike anything else.

Squat and low, the roadgoing version has the same 2-litre, 150 brake horse powering that goes into the Renault Clio Williams, mounted behind two deeply uncomfortable bucket seats. The doors spring up and pull down like beetle wings to enclose the most Spartan interior in world motoring: the cabin is little more than an aluminium and

The driver faces a dashboard with stainless steel dials, showing engine revs, oil pressure and engine temperature; speedo, clock and fuel guage are all shown separately on a digital screen. The seat moves forward but the steel drilled pedals move up to meet the driver if needs be. There is no heater and forget radio; with no side windows either, you could never get near hearing it even if it used the

speakers from a Blur concert.

The Spider has cleverly positioned slats, which apparently deflect the air up and over the driver and passenger. Great theory, but requiring a great act of faith from your faithful test driver. I accepted the argument, but why was there an array of helmets ready to pick up before I was

sent out on to public roads?

Do I really need a helmet? I asked innocently. "Ha, non, monsieur," said the engineer, "but I would not know when ze gravel hits you in ze face."

Oh. fine, I'll take the helmet then. And, Heavens to Betsy, it was needed because any speed above 60mph felt like sticking



The Renault Spider: the French company is prepared to push the boundaries of taste to a seldom explored limit

your head out of the open window of an RAF Phantom on a low level pass over Wales. But there was more to this fearless test a spin around the Paul Ricard circuit in the competition version of the

the little cars uprated by another 30bhp to blast around Europe's circuits.

Renault dressed me head to foot in baggy racing overalls and helmet, driving gloves and a modicum of hope, and set me off. Now this was a motor that blasted off the grid

like a rocket, had a nonsyncromesh racing gearbox
and unassisted brakes — and
it was being guided by a
motorist with more in common with Willie Schumacher
whan Michael. But even I
couldn't make enough highspeed mistakes to wrong-foot

But even I
couldn't make enough high-

the car. The slicks clung to the tarmac, I clung to the steering wheel and the men from Renault clung to their mobile phones in case everything went wrong.

went wrong.
At least, there was no flying gravel, but I expect that the 75 Britons who have put a £5,000

deposit on their new Spider this year will confine their motoring to sunnier days, quieter roads ... or simply polishing one of the most remarkable shapes to come out of any car factory. It is almost worth risking a fine for failing to display a tax disc.

SPORT SPIDER

Body: Open two-

strengthened with composite materials. Engine: 4-cylinder, 2litre, 16-valve, as used in

Renault's Clio
Williams, set amidships
for balance. Delivers
150hhp at 6000rpm
(180bhp racing
version).

speed manual (6-speed

racing version).

Performance: 0 to

62mph in 6.9 seconds

(6.2 racing version). Top speed 135mph. Not

as fast as some, but it

driver's position inches

Economy: Don't ask.

adjusted wing mirrors.

beater - bring your own

That's it, no radio, no

helmet and thermals.

Price: est £25,000.

Equipment Hand

feels hair-raising -

above the ground.

literally -- from

Hugh Hunston welcomes the latest offspring born of a Swedish-Japanese-Dutch manufacturing relationship

hen Volvo's dynamic duo, the \$40 saloon and its hatchback-cum-estate car the V40, roll into British showrooms on May 28 the company will be moving into territory largely unexplored by the marque.

After a five-year gestation period, the Dutch-built twins are the product of a unique Euro-Japanese relationship between Volvo and Mitsubishi which also spawned the "other hall's" Carisma model, within the NedCar incubator.

But the good news is that the S40 and V40 are not clones of their Japanese half-cousin, even if parallel production facilities and crucial economies of scale from shared development were central to the project.

The saloon and wagon look like Volvos, in a fresh way, feel like Volvos, and they protect their occupants both actively and passively in time-honoured fashion. Because most rivals have stolen Volvos safety clothing the S and Volvos are being pitched heavily on a combination of lifestyle and driving dynamics.

They are aimed at the upper

To Volvo: twins, both healthy

medium car sector in Europe (everything from the Ford Mondeo to Audi A4 and BMW 3 Series) boasting 3 million potential buyers. In reality, Volvo's British clientele will be restricted to 7,000 this year because of right-hand drive production restrictions at the Born factory in Holland.

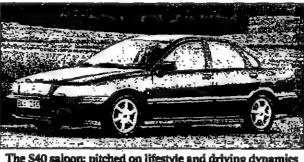
Although sharing the same outline platform with the Carisma, Volvo's life preserving approach means the S and V40 have chassis strengthening and extra weight to match the structural strength of the larger 850 saloon and estate. The stiffer body shell should make for less noise and rattles, but pre-production V40s were afflicted by a squeak in the rear seatbelt mechanism. A senior engineer claimed

WD40 on the line would solve the problem.

Mounted in the now de rigeur transverse front-wheel-drive format, the petrol-powered cars use four-cylinder 1.8 and 2-litre engines producing 115 bhp and 137bhp respectively with manual five-speed and automatic gearbox alternatives. A 1.9-litre 90bhp diesel option will arrive next January. Sharp and responsive handling and road-holding characteristics place them at least on a par with Audi and BMW rivals.

Underplayed at the launch stability system" which electronically senses adhesion the front-driven through wheels and retards the power if they lose grip or spin. In layman's terms, it shuts off one cylinder in the engine, rendering the car a threecylinder machine until normal service is resumed via the tarmac. Combining this with across the range anti-lock brakes emphasises accident avoidance as much as crash damage limitation.

Attention to detail includes improved dipped headlamp



The S40 saloon: pitched on lifestyle and driving dynamics



The V40 hatchback: not a clone of its Japanese half-cousin

effectiveness for the crucial vision range up to 75 metres in front of the car.

These Volvos are the first in class to incorporate side mounted airbags. Happily, these protective devices do not produce a siege environment, and although the greytrimmed interior lacks distinction it is a major improvement

on previous Volvos. Sportiness, youth appeal and vitality pepper the press blurb and testify to Volvo's avowed aim of bringing its ownership age profile down. Singles and young families are particular S and V40 target groups.

Volvo is playing for big stakes in the toughest high-

volume sales arena. English-

Body styles: 840 4door saloon, V40 5-door

sports estate.
Engines: 1.8 (115bhp)
and 2-litre (137bhp)
aluminium: 16-valve
petrol units.

Performance 0-62mph 10.8 seconds (1.8-litre manual). Max speed I2Imph (130mph for 2-litre)

Economy: S40 1.8litre manual: urban. cycle, 27.4mpg; constant 56mph, 47.9mpg; constant 75mph, 39.2mpg, V40 2litre auto: 23.5mpg; 40.4mpg; 33.2mpg. Price: £14,000-£20,000.

man Peter Horbury, Volvo's resident styling guru, has elevated the chunky \$40 and svelte V40 above most rivals. The Dutch-based Mitsubishi-Volvo link is likely to nurture an increasingly meaningful automotive relationship, which promises an expanding and varied family for both partners.

What led to Jaguar's little local difficulties

I thought that British car exports were thriving. Why has Jaguar laid off a third of its workforce?

The motor industry is subject to some strange variations at the moment. British factories sent 744,608 cars to export markets last year, a 20 per cent increase on the previous year and more than 48 per cent of total production. More than 1.5 million cars were made here, the best figure for 21 years.

And I thought I'd read about Jaguars-outselling Ferraris in Italy.

Jaguar sales throughout Europe last year were nearly 60 per cent higher than in 1994 at 7,230 against 4,633. In Italy the company sold 1,075 cars — twice as many as Ferrari sold.

So why has the company told 2,200 workers to go home for a week?

While Europe is important, Jaguar's biggest export market is in the United States. Sales there were up 18 per cent last year, but last month they showed a severe slow-down. It seems that much talked about "feel-good" factor is taking even longer to show in the US than here.

But I thought that after August, when the registration letter changes, January was the best month for car sales.

Correct again, but on that basis 1996 doesn't look very promising. New registrations here in January were up just 0.3 per cent at 191,761. Imports took a 60.87 per cent share of the market.

So is the outlook for Jaguar gloomy?

Not entirely. The real moment of truth will come at the Geneva Motor Show in March when Jaguar unveils its new XK8 sports car, grandchild of the E-type. If it succeeds like its predecessors, the Big Cat will be Top Cat



Good news 0345 48 48 15

Bad news 0345 48 48 16

Don't know.
Tell me more about the new approach.
Mazda 626.

BOOKS

On the seedy side of sex



Armstrong: exploring the origins of Western misogyny

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

WOMAN By Karen Armstrong Fount, £8.99

ARMSTRONG, one-time nun-turned-teacher and fulltime writer, is also the author of the best-selling A History of God. This work, first published in 1986, is a strongly worded and fascinating exploration of Christian neuroses and the origins of Western misogyny.

While never elevating other cultures at the expense of the West, one of her main points is that while Judaism and Islam are in many ways chauvinistic and repressive towards women, they do not preach sexual disgust the way Christianity does. In the first centuries after Christ, the Christian message was

hypocrisy.

and the mystic: the different ways women are pigeon-holed in order to be controlled, all the time relating her theories to the way we sciously and unconsciously. An extremely enlightening it depressing read.



LOUIS MACNEICE By Jon Stallworthy Faber, £12.90

IN A LETTER to an Oxford friend in 1929 MacNeice described himself as "in some strange way hollow" a statement of unhappiness that echoed the Zeitgeist. It is hard to think of him now without the other members of that 1930s triumvirate. Auden and Spender, or to free him from nostalgic associations with the wartime justice to MacNeice's originality and brings the charismatic Irishman alive clever, ironic, "totally, irredeemably heterosexual" (as Anthony Blunt called him) and ultimately sad.

■ GOOD BENITO LIGHTMAN, besides being

mostly egalitarian. Gradually it was reinterpreted until the high-handed pronounce-ments on the status of women by St Paul became hysterical denunciations of female sexuality by the likes of St Jerome. The latter so revels in his own disgust that he seems a forerunner of the Victorians: the let's take another look at this just to remind ourselves how disgusting it really is! school of

Armstrong examines the witch, the virgin, the martyr behave today, both con-

fine writer of fiction. His delicate second novel tender-ly charts the life of Dr Bennett Lang, a physicist. The story interweaves memories of Lang's childhood, a world of fantastical yet functional inventions, with his professional arrival at a Baltimore University where the Dean rapidly enlists him to prise years of unpublished theorems out of the department's reclusive genius. Lightman gives exhilarating insights into the scientific mind. His prose, in observing the phenomena of daily existence, is sensitive and dusted with magic realism.

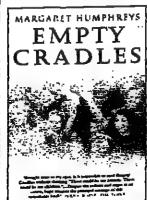
FEGG DANCING

By Liz Jensen Bloomsbury, £5,99 THE NARRATOR of this engaging first novel is Hazel, wife of chilly gynaecologist Greg, whose mission in life is to produce the Perfect Baby through the development of a drug called Genetic Choice. Meanwhile at the Manxheath Institute of widowed mother is living out other fantasies. Or are they fantasies? This extravagant black comedy dances hilariously around questions

of delusion and reality, ending with an orgy of female revenge. Jensen has a fine comic ear and her send-ups of psychotherapy, tele-evangelism, drug marketing and genetic engineering are della professor of science, is a clously spot-on.

LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD By Randall Kenan

Abacus, £6.99 SET in the close-knit, superstitious North Carolina farming community of Tims Creek, these 12 interwoven stories conjure up an elemental world in which the stark realities of poverty, racial tension and sexual betrayal are shot through with visions and fantasies. A place of golden cornfields and rocking chairs, Tims Creek is also the haunt of ghosts and angels - the spectres of lost loves, past crimes and disappointed dreams. Kenan writes with infinite compassion and lays bare the hearts and minds of his characters.



■ EMPTY CRADLES By Margaret Humphreys Corgi, 56.99

IF SOMEONE told you she was put on a boat to Australia, alone, at the age of four. you too might not believe it. For Margaret Humphreys, future founder of the Child Migrants Trust, this was only the first in a tidal wave testimonies through which she came to understand and reveal the anguish of children — many told their parents were dead who were shipped off to the British colonies, often to face physical and sexual abuse. A shocking tale of social engineering gone wrong, this is also an inspiring account of tireless commitment in the face of sloth and vested interest - and of unlimited



FATHER WORE By Anne Enright Minerva, £6.99 GRACE works on The

LoveQuiz - an Irish TV show that is like Blind Date but not in nearly such good taste. She lives alone, having left home to escape her father's mild insanity and absurd wig, until into her frenzied, loveless world floats Stephen, a very unethereal angel. Grace fancies him like mad, but can't persuade him to make love to her, though he's wonderfully handy around the house. Stephen wants to appear on The LoveQuiz. so Grace fixes it, little guessing the havoc his angelic emanations will wreak. A witty, anarchic novel with a very original voice.

compassion for its pawns. Contributors: Tania Glyde, Hazel Leslie, Kate Bassett. Nicki Household, Alison Burns

BEFORE I rush off to have sex with my husband's boss, my best friend's boyfriend, the window cleaner, a gardener or two and myself, I would just like to say that all this concupiscent activity is not only entirely natural but is for the benefit of mankind. Furthermore, the spree will really have very little to do with me. The girl can't help it, you see.

And neither can the boy. Our bodies have a mind of their own.
It is not the author's fault that he is an evolutionary biologist, any more than it is the reader's fault that she is not. But when a book has been so obviously targeted for a wide reader-ship, the gulf between our conflicting visions of human relations is important. Perhaps this is what is meant by making science sexy. For what could

The real war of the sexes is fought on a microscopic scale, Ginny Dougary finds

SPERM WARS: Infidelity, sexual conflict and other bedroom battles By Robin Baker

Fourth Estate, £7.99

be sexier, in theory, than sex itself? But Sperm Wars, like the pornography the author is so eager to distance himself from, not only takes the poetry out of love, it even takes the lyricism out of lust.

This book seeks to popularise the biological research conducted by Dr Robin Baker, the author, and Dr Mark Bellis. a former colleague of Baker at Manchester University. Like its scarcely less spicy-sounding scientific precursor. Human Sperm Competition: copulation, masturba-tion and infidelity, Sperm Wars aims to tell you everything you need to know about sperm. And much more. There is nothing startling about its thesis that men are genetically programmed to conquer and women to breed. What is new is the quality and quantity of information on sperm (shape, size, character, motive, purse), cervical mucus and the myster-

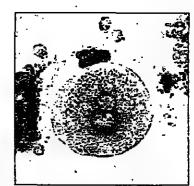
ies of the damp patch; all of which is

intended to show that every sexual act — from masturbation to rape — is

predicated on the male's unconscious desire to knock his rival's more weedy sperm for six, and the female's complementary desire to collect the finest grade sperm available.

Much of the information in the first section of the book is riveting. (I had no idea that my cervix was quite so crafty or ingenious.) And the author certainly has a talent for making the mechanics of reproduction accessible: his image of the penis as a thrusting vacuum cleaner is quite unforgettable. But there is only so much one can absorb about egggetting conquerors versus kamikaze troops without feeling like an old man in a grubby mac wanting to flick the pages to the dirty bits. There is another problem, which

the author seems to address in the



War front: fertilised human egg

section on rape. Darwinian science when applied to human beings can smack of a clinical, rather Hitlerian detachment. The woman who allows the stepfather of her children to violate her daughter and beat up her son, is "successful" because she also allows him to impregnate her with vigorous sperm. I have rarely found sex so depressing. But my body, of course, might think otherwise.

It's all

very

wellie

silly, boarding-school names

(Caro, Nicko, Sasha, Flavia)

and bored with all that their

names imply (large, cold.

crumbling houses and a ten-

dency to pour large whiskies

with the unspoken assump-

tion of writers and publishers

that the moneyed classes

make endlessly fascinating lit-

erary material for popular

fiction. They do not, especially

That said, Angels Alone is

not bad. Lavinia is married to

a junior minister, Tom Medworth, who, as a keen

hunter, has become a target

for animal rights activists.

Tom has a horrible, horsy

marriage to him is tired and

strained. He is charming and

works too hard: she feels

dowdy, inadequate and angry.

and hates the children being

away at school. There is plenty

to keep them apart and -

seemingly - not much to keep

them together. Then Tom

disappears, shedding light on

the darker aspects of their life

As an example of the green

wellie genre, Angels Alone is

perfectly readable, well-con-

structed and mercifully unpre-

dictable. In fact, I guessed the

ending half-way through and

I was wrong, which was much more fun than being right and

is testimony to Kate Harfield's

i found most of her charac-

ters indistinguishable from

one another but I quite liked

her authorial voice. Though

she lacks the spark of true originality. Hatfield has true

compassion for her charac-

ters, and that, at least, is more

abilities as a storyteller.

xeener.

By Kate Hatfield

Capitalism with a human face

John Naughton on America's

wealthiest ordinary Joe

OUTSIDE the City of London. most people in this country have probably never heard of Warren Buffett. In America, however, he has the status of a folk hero. This is because, despite being fabulously rich (second only to Bill Gates at current stock-market prices), he is also fantastically unpretentious. He dresses scruffily and lives in Omaha, which is closer to Deadsville than even Des Moines. He still resides in the house he bought in 1958 for \$31,500, drives his own car and drinks only Cherry Cola. The annual report of his company, Berkshire Hathaway, reads like something by Will Rogers out of J. P. Morgan. indeed people buy a single Berkshire share (cur-

rently priced at more than \$16,000 simply to get a copy. Buffett runs one of the biggest conglomerates in America from a modest office suite with a tiny staff and spends most of his day talking on the telephone or reading in an office which boasts neither a calculator nor a computer. His only concession to executive hubris is a (second-hand) private jet - and even that was justified by claiming that scheduled flights had become

difficult because of being pes-

tered by fellow passengers

seeking stock-market tips. For Buffett is a genius at picking shares — the smartest punter in the history of the stock market. It is one thing to make a million bucks from an astute share deal or two, quite another to outperform the Dow index year in, year out. But Buffett has being doing this for more than 40 years. during which time he has never lost money for himself or his investors. For four decades he has been spotting stocks in public companies which were underpriced relaBUFFETT: The Making of an American Capitalist By Roger Lowenstein Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

tive to the "real" values of those companies, buying them cheap and watching them rise. In the process he has not only enriched himself but also those investors who spotted his potential early and stuck with him. And therein lies the secret of the Buffett legend, for he is the ultimate embodiment of the American dream - a combination of Forrest Gump and Midas.

Roger Lowenstein's admir-ing biography of this legend-ary figure tells a story that is almost too good to be true about how an earnest, quiet schoolboy with a prodigious aptitude for numbers, an astonishing confidence in his own judgment and an obsession with accumulating money grew to become an capacity for backing long-term winners. And the strangest aspect of the story is the sheer mundanity of Buffett's formula. which is based on the idea that share drice is generally i poor measure of the "underlying value" of a stock.

His trick was to ignore the day-to-day frothing of the markets and to scrutinise companies in order to identify which were properly-run businesses with growth potential; and then to buy the stock and wait for stock-market valuation to catch up with the reality. The theory is simple, but practising it has evidently been beyond the reach of Wall Street's finest. What was needed, it seems, was the discipline, patience and invincible self-confidence which still defines Middle America - and its finest son, the inimitable Warren Buffett.



Heavy weather: on the seafront at Dover during the great storm of October 1987

Raining cats and frogs

SHUDDERING in the cruel WEIRD WEATHER east wind, what this country really needs is a chirpy we erman to tell us that we ain't seen nothing yet. Fortunately, there is something about British weather communicators which makes them ineffably cheerful at all times. Meteorology, apparently, is so satisfying a science that it brings a

certain chirruping contentment to its practitioners. Paul Simons is no exception. Weird Weather is a chatty, sporadically instructive anthology of the extremes and oddities of climate. It tries half-heartedly to throw in serious bits about global warming and disaster, but keeps reverting to a tone I can only describe as gleeful. Heard about the shower of

live frogs in Shepton Mallett? The Rickmansworth frost-hollow (as cold as Braemar), or the Mablethorpe waterspout? Did you know that a Nasa rocket packed with meteorological equipment to study lightning was prematurely set off - by a bolt of lightning?

How many winds can you name which cause suicide? Simons can help. Or do you wonder about will-o'-the-wisps, or why rain smells or whether it is true that St Elmo's fire once irradiated a Dover school football

Know the one about the sea-

monster off Orkney that

turned out to be a whiriwind?

team? Do snowflakes tinkle? And how did Second World War domber bases di fog with oildrums? Did you know that San Francisco would have been discovered 200 years earlier but for the fog? Pay attention there, class - the fastest avalanche in the

world was 217mph.
At first I found this book annoying. But I am British and so have succumbed totally. I shall talk of little else for weeks; for true Brits know that discussing weather, not the single European currency. is the way to happiness.

Don't go away. I was going to tell you about the effect of rainfall on the sex life of the Panamanian fungus beetle . . .

LIBBY PURVES

than can be said of this reader. MARY LOUDON

The new post-Cold War villains are renegade communists, says Peter Millar

England's white, unpleasant land

racism of her council estate for the

rebellious. She becomes trapped by

poverty, sex and prejudice. She says "My mother didn't believe in black people.

She tried to believe that she was not

black. I tried to explain that, now I was a

grown-up, I liked being black. Being

black was something to be proud of." But

Olive only discovers this racial pride

from a position of weakness, and its

Olive's is a different tale. She is

■ NEVER FAR FROM NOWHERE

Red cowboys, RELATING the make-believe world of the thriller to reality is a risky business. One route, mapped by Frederick Forsyth dead Indians in The Day of the Jackal, is to set the action in the past, then reveal the "secret" story of how history almost crashed off the

David Mason dealt in his first book Shadow over Babyion with a former SAS squad's assassination attempt on Saddam Hussein. In Little Brother, he reassembles some of that team in an effort to stop an assassination. The villains are the former East German

secret police, the Stasi, now

cast as hit-men-for-hire hanging out in North Korea. This is rip-roaring macho stuff in the best Wilbur Smith tradition that bizarrely includes a plug for John Major that the No 10 PR boys would

THIS is the story of two sisters, born in

London in the 1960s, the children of

Jamaican immigrants. The elder, Olive,

has a much darker skin than her sister

Vivien. They narrate alternate chapters.

Vivien represents assimilation through

education and the social mobility it

brings. She is not fooling herself, she

says. "When I was young, I used to look at my parents ... and think how lucky

this country was to have them ... but

even when I was young, I knew that

English people hated us" - but she

chooses to keep her head down, and thus

escapes some of the traps of race, class

and gender, exchanging the naked

LITTLE BROTHER By David Mason

Bloomsbury, £15.99 WALKING BACK THE CAT
By Robert Littell Faber, £14.99 SAS myth-making to keep the

Hereford hard men happy. The book is sadly marred by a few factual inaccuracies, and Mason's protagonists have too much of *Hogan's Heroes* about them. But he gives us just enough hints to guess the assassination target and then

pulls off a last page double

By Andrea Levy

Headline Review, £12.99

genteel racism of art college.

bluff to tie in tightly with the

history books.

Robert Littell has chosen an altogether more exotic post-Cold War vein to mine. His villains are not the Stasi but the KGB themselves, or at least an American-based network, cut off and left in limbo by the fruits of perestroika. That is, until Moscow Centre resurrects itself in the shadowy form of a new "rezident" codenamed Prince Igor and begins ordering their "wetwork" expert, codenamed Parsifal, to murder Apaches.

Enter Finn, a Gulf War

veteran with a horror of war and empathy with the Apaches, who make their living from a gambling casino in the New Mexico desert. When Finn finds out that the casino is being taken to the cleaners and Parsifal wonders why Moscow is interested in dead Indians, their interests collide.

They begin "walking back the cat", CIA slang for what John le Carré would call "taking the packbearings". But tracing the chain of command from the bottom up reveals disturbing parallels between the reactivated Russian network and the mafiastyle casino shakedown. Not just the bad guys go off the rails, they discover. This is an extraordinary

thriller: challenging, brutal yet curiously optimistic, an offbeat epic about offbeat

discovery does not do her much good. The blurb says that this book "will

shake you with its raw energy". Novels

about race and class that promise to do

that are probably best avoided. This one.

however, is much longer on intelligent

restraint than it is on "raw energy". The

story is well told, does not dodge

complexity and rings true as an account

of the fear and confusion felt by first-

generation black English people 20 years

ago. Above all Andrea Levy succeeds in

showing how people respond to an

ROBERT CRAMPTON

identity imposed on them by others.

Ungroovy kind of love

again. Perhaps that explosion of youth and confidence looks even brighter now against the backdrop of recession. Nostal-gia sells, the Beatles are back, and so are skinny clothes for malnourished models. But Frances Donnelly's new novel takes on the darker side of the

The evil star of Catch the Wind is Kit Carson, a rock musician shooting from success to terrifying fame. His fans would like to eat him alive and on one occasion they nearly do. The portrait of Kit is vivid, believable and the best thing in a book which tells rather than shows. Kit cannot handle what his talent and charisma bring him. and his self-destructiveness is only exceeded by his ability to destroy those around him.

Catch the Wind follows three young women whose mothers were the main characters in Donnelly's first novel. Shake Down the Stars. Daisy, fresh from the glamour of Haight Ashbury, preaches total sexual liberation. In fact, she is deeply depressed by orgies with unappealing men and menaced by a drug scene turned sour and violent. This is a novel of survival through self-discovery and a return to certain basic values. Daisy shakes off photographers and television personalities who



Donnelly: low-key writing

CATCH THE WIND By Frances Donnelly Corgi, £5.99

see her as a symbol of swing-ing London and falls in love. Annie, who is a talented dress designer but has no confidence, slowly learns to trust herself. Alexia, Kit's lover, eventually flees his violence. Donnelly touches on the mixture of fear and shattered confidence that makes women stay with violent men. It takes a scene in which Kit smashes his newborn daughter's cradle and punches Alexia while she is holding the baby before Alexia can emerge from her numb passivity.

But although the events are dramatic, the writing is lowkey and so Catch the Wind remains readable rather than absorbing. Donnelly has not yet achieved that difficult combination of strong story, tension, sparkle and pace that turns a good popular novel into a magnetic bestseller.

HELEN DUNMORE

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Sparkling Cosi;

Rachmaninov as nature intended;

Hounslow's Bluetones take wing;

Ben Webster swings with strings

OPERA

John Higgins

■ MOZART Così fan tutte Fleming/von Otter/ Scarabelli/Lopardo/Bār/ Pertusi/Chamber Orchestra

of Europe/Solti
Decca 444 174-2 (3 CDs)*** WEARY, perhaps, of the demands of stage directors. Sir Georg Solti has recently turned to concert opera. In the spring of 1994, he took the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and six wisely chosen soloists on a brief tour of Cosi fan tutte through France and Germany before ending with two nights at the Festival Hall. On arrival in London, the team was sparking together so well that 90 per cent of this Decca recording is taken from the first of that pair of of



Fleming: outstanding

Here is sunlit Solti. Except during Fiordiligi's Act II aria, Per pietà. he adopts quicksilver tempos, using the lightest of touches with his small and expert band of players. Solti steers well clear of the current habit of peering into the darker corners of Cost and prefers to see the Mozart-da Ponte wager of constancy as a comedy of youthful indiscretion. Everyone concerned will learn to live and love another day. The score is complete, but with the verbal exchanges taken at staccato speed the opera is over in under three hours, including some Festival Hall applause. In the theatre. even with cuts, it has all too often seemed much, much

longer. Solti's previous *Cos*i for Decca was not one of his best recordings and suffered from an unduly staid Flordiligi (Lorengar). He makes no such mistakes this time round Renée Fleming begins a bit cautiously in the role but quickly warms up. Per pleta is quite outstanding. Frank Lopardo's Ferrando is easily his best performance on disc to date: the honeved mezza voce of Un aura amorosa,

with each note carefully suspended in position, can turn to affronted male rage in Act 11. Ferrando and Fiordiligi are always the stormy petrels of the love game, while Anne Sofie von Otter and Olaf Bar stay ready to play the complaisant couple. She teases and surrenders; he persuades and

should stay tuned.

Hilary Finch

Sonata No 2, etc

JUST as, in the case of Bartók, Zoltan Kocsis has been pitting his own imagination and intelligence to thrilling effect against the composer's own from manuscript and piano roll, so now he turns to Rachmaninov. Both in his playing and in his own accompanying notes, kocsis makes a strong case for this original 1913 version of the Sonata No 2. Rachmaninov's 1931 revision, with its numerous cuts and awkward transitions, reduced the work to little more than an outline. Here is the piece in its full rhapsodic glory, and Kocsis has both the technique and the intellect to

So deeply thought out is his performance that he has the freedom to unfold the music as if it were an improvisation. This is so vital in Rachmaninov where, as Kocsis himself puts it, "the work and its interpretation are all of a piece". Kocsis fills out this recital with enthralling performances of six Preludes, three Etude-Tableaux and two

□ RACHMANINOV

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE HISTORIC PROPERTY

The Times/NPI

National Heritage Awards

3 third place.

Blickling Hall

Boldover Cas

Chartwell

Brodsworth Hall

Awards last autumn, readers of The Times

The awards, in association with pensions

specialist NPI, now moves onto the voting stage

and today we publish a voting form, right, con-

taining the 16 short-listed finalists. You can also

vote for The Times Family award, by selecting

a property you consider makes a special effort

The winning property will be presented with

a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under sec-

retary of state at the Department of National

Heritage, at a gala reception in London in

April. By registering your vote, you will auto-

matically be entered into a prize draw for the

Coffee table books illustrating historic build-

ings, worth £20 each, will go to 20 runners-up.

Wall, London El4 9XT. Closing date is Saturday, March 2, 1996.

Post the voting form to:

Communications. Grampian

House, Meridian Gate, Marsh

The Times/NPI National

Heritage Awards, Spero

chance to attend the ceremony with a guest.

to entertain and inform adults and children.

have nominated more than 160 properties

which they consider to be the best in the

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MPI NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARDS

would like to vote for the following properties.

Please mark 1, 2 and 3 in the spaces provided.

1 being the overall winner, 2 the runner-up and

The Times Family Award

Please tick one only

Brodsworth Half Fountains Abbey

Dover Castle

Forde Abbey

Hever Castle

Dover Castle

Fountains Abbey

Hampton Court

Harewood House

conquers. The beginning of Act II is

filled with the ripple of femi-nine laughter as Despina tells her mistresses about the real world. Adelina Scarabelli has a bit of edge to her tone, but this contrasts well with the sisters trilling away like a couple of lovebirds. Michele Pertusi casts tradition aside to offer a young and forceful Don Alfonso. Next month he reopens the old Paris Opera in the title role of Don Giovanni, a concert performance with Sold conducting. Giovanni, with some cast changes, comes to the Festival Hall with Solti in the autumn and the recording engineers will be there. On the evidence of this witty and dashing Cost, we

CHAMBER

RACHMANINOV

Zoltan Kocsis Philips 446 220-2 ★ ★ ★

Morceaux de fantaisie.

NEW ON VIDEO: Paris with no heart; Audrey Hepburn on the brink of stardom; Usual Suspects in the clear



Scoring no points: Billy Crystal plays a smug, selfish basketball referee but fails to make the audience care about a curiously moribund love story in Forget Paris

FORGET PARIS

Columbia TriStar, 12, 1995 CAN Billy Crystal and Debra Winger make their love affair stick? Do we care? Not much, partly because the stars never seem to be two hearts beating as one. Why would Winger, an airline executive, ever contemplate bliss with Crystal's smug, selfish basketball referee? The Paris we see is the movie creation: tourist traps, locals in berets. On the brighter side, the script's portrayal of urban angst brings Woody Allen pleasurably to mind. A rental release.

Connoisseur, 15, 1994

WIM WENDERS'S sequel to Wings of Desire. Some stretches are capti-

half hours of extreme whimsy. pastiche thriller and visits from the likes of Mikhail Gorbachev, Peter Falk and Lou Reed. Otto Sander's angel casts a kindly eye around the unified city and takes on mortal form; but the deeper he delves into human life, the more cumbersome Wenders's conceits grow. Ravishing photography helps.

III I LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM Tartan, 18, 1993

MILD bank clerk and part-time actor becomes a television cop and takes his uniform home. Out on the streets in black leather, he finds the power life otherwise denied him. Canadian director David Welling-

vating, though you still need the ton plays clever games with our patience of Job to survive two and a fascination with television violence and sneaks plenty of dark humour into the edgy scenes. Stage actor Tom McCamus is riveting as the hero led off the rails by his lust for order. No masterpiece, but a striking film with a tart disposition and a

ROMAN HOLLDAY

mind of its own.

CIC, U. 1953 GREGORY PECK'S American newspaperman falls for a princess in disguise: a slim, whimsical story once earmarked for Frank Capra and fattened up by director William Wyler, who insisted on shooting in Rome and never lets us forget it. But it is an admirable showcase for young Audrey Hepburn. In one

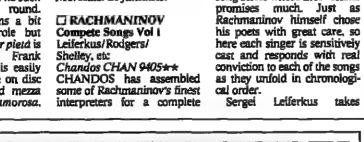
bound she leapt from British bit- THE USUAL SUSPECTS parts to Hollywood stardom and an

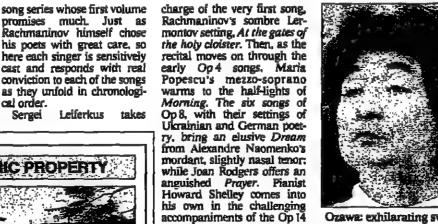
THE SLINGSHOT

Connoisseur, 12, 1993
AKE SANDGREN'S oddball Swedish film whisks us to Stockholm in the 1920s, where a sensitive but resilient child suffers school persecution, family strife, and peers up his first ternale skirt. The film, from an autobiographical novel, is never boring, but Sandgren's staid brand of image-making rubs away some of the characters' sharp edges, and it comes from a contraption the hero. makes from a little bent wire and two condoms.

PolyGram, 18. 1995
JOIN Special Agent Chazz
Palminetri as he tries to disentangle
the threads that bind five criminals
and lead to a dockside fire and 27
dead bodies. The plot is complex but
director Bryan Singer keeps it
moving with an authority and bold
style parties removed from the static style worlds removed from the static cleverness of his only other film. Public Access. The action at times burns the screen but there is room for careful characterisations, and the strong cast - including Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne and Stephen never matches its obvious forerun-ner. My Life as a Dog. The title ties. One of the top American films

GEOFF BROWN





ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington

songs, painting a pulsating backdrop for Naoumenko's Summer Nights and Rod-

TCHAIKQVSKY Symphony No 4 RIMSKY-KORSAKOY Capriccio espagnol Saito Kinen Orchestra/

gers's Spring Torrents.

Philips 446 102-2*** ALTHOUGH active for only two months of the year, the Saito Kinen Orchestra has carved a considerable reputation for itself in the 12 years of its existence. Founded by Seiji Ozawa and Kazuyoshi Akiyama in memory of the great Japanese teacher Hideo Saito, the orchestra draws on prominent soloists, teachers and other players. This is its fourth recording under Ozawa for Philips.

The orchestra's defining characteristic is discipline. When combined with Ozawa's meticulous ear for detail evident too in his recording of Tchaikovsky's Fifth with the Berlin Philharmonic last year - the result is the last word in precision. Ozawa's reading of Tchaikovsky is less demonic than that of, say, Kurt Sanderling, whose Fourth was reissued in the DG Originals series last year. Nor, for better or worse, does the Saito Kinen Orchestra have the raw, elemental quality of Sanderling's Leningrad Philharmonic of the 1950s. But there is no lack of electricity here, nor of feeling for the appropriate style and idiom. The flowing lines of the first movement are sculpted with a sensitivity for their emotional content, while



Ozawa: exhilarating sweep

the brass rings out with an incisive edge, the Fate motif scything thrillingly through The phrasing of the Andan-

tino is similarly trim and neat, almost to a fault: the effect is slightly prettified, where the folk-tune contours call for something a touch more earthy. Yet there is a genuine heart-tugging quality here too. In the Finale, again, precision is the watchword: every one of those rushing, frenzied semi-quavers is in place, clearly articulated. Ozawa's pacing is also admirable, leaving him-self scope to sweep the coda

away to an exhilarating finish. The coupling is Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espag-nol, in which orchestra and conductor do full justice to the brilliant colours and lively Spanish rhythms for which the piece is famous.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

THE BLUETONES Expecting to Fly Superior Quality Recordings/A&M BLUE 004***

DESPITE the scramble by the latest wave of groups to dissociate themselves from the dogeared Britpop tag. charabanc rolls on. And if the Bluetones are not an example of a new British band playing fine pop music, then it is hard to think who is.

Four earnest young men from Hounslow who have already been declared the great pale hopes of 1996 on the basis of a handful of singles, they offer plenty of passion, though nothing in the way of innovation. Sticking primarily



pleasing virtue out of his long, southern-English vowels. Disillusionment is a recurring theme - "I'm not the same person I was a year ago/You cut me deeply and the scars still show" - but. typically, it is music that turns a downcast mood into some-

romantic whimsy with a

clean-cut voice, making a

thing uplifting.
Their fondness for pop melody, and the care with which the songs are written and arranged, means that they stray, at times, a little too close to the bland tunesmithery of the Beautiful South. But on harder numbers, such as the ambitious Talking to Clarry and Cut Some Rug fimagine the Stone Roses with a proper singer), there is a rare brilliance at work.

MJJ Music/Epic 481694★ TAJ (22), Taryli (20) and TI Jackson (17) are the three Ts in 3T. Their Dad is Tito Jackson, formerly of the Jackson Five/Jacksons, which means that their uncle is none other than the King of Pop himself. Membership of a showbusiness dynasty undoubtedly has its advantages. Not only are the boys - none of whom looks a day over 15 - signed to Michael Jackson's MJJ label, but he has also contributed a new song, Why, to their alburn. Brotherhood.

However, the intensity of the grooming process, which effectively began at birth, and the burden of expectation on their slender shoulders is such that any spark of youthful innocence or spontaneity has been rigorously excised from

The result is a sophisticated but rather stodgy collection of mature soul ballads and mellow swingbeat grooves that have been polished to dull perfection. Uncle Michael sings with the boys on Why, an insipid, orchestrated ballad that addresses such big ques-

tions as "Why does Wednes-day-come after Tuesday?", and his involvement alone will guarantee that this album will sell. But their tendency to play safe means that, despite their obvious talent, the Ts sound as if they have been catapulted into an early middle-age.

David Sinclair

OCEAN COLOUR

The Riverboat Song MCA MCSTD 40021***

A BAND that most observers assumed were destined for the scrapheap after their first album flopped in 1992, Ocean Colour Scene have mounted a remarkable comeback.

Guitarist Steve Cradock continues to hold down his day iob in Paul Weller's band. and the revitalised Scene have made the most of the connection, securing the services of both Brendan Lynch, produc-er of Weller's Wild Wood and Stanley Road albums, and Weller himself in a cameo role, playing the organ.

But the lion's share of the



Ocean Colour Scene: return

credit for this great single belongs to the group itself. Tooled up with an authentic 1960s rock sound. The Riverboat Song boasts an insistent, hustling rhythm whipped along by splashes of wah-wah guitar and a hyperactive pair of maracas.

"I see trouble up the road." Simon Fowler sings in his high, throaty voice, as neurotic squalls of rattle and hum nip at the heels of the tune. Packed with energy, it is a song that will surely set them back on the road to greater things.

of last year. Available to rent.

3422 Clive Davis

BEN WEBSTER Music For Loving Verve 52774 (2 CDs) **

DOES an improviser as lush and melodic as Ben Webster require any help from an orchestral arranger? In an ideal world, he would be left to explore Chelsea Bridge or Early Autumn in the company of an unadorned rhythm sec-

tion with, say, Harry Edison

blowing a wry obbligato.

Most writing for strings resolutely refuses to do anything so indecorous as swing. so it would be natural to assume that draping Webster's saxophone in violins would have unhappy consequences. It ain't necessarily so, as this assortment of mid-1950s sessions makes plain.

If an orchestra must be drafted in, then Ralph Burns and Billy Strayhorn's arrange-ments are probably the most tasteful anyone could hope for. Seldom obtrusive or syrupy. they furnish subtle rhythmic tics and figures behind Webster's billowing tenor. That said, it still comes as a relief to reach the handful of tracks where he is matched with just Teddy Wilson, Ray Brown and Jo Jones. This decidedly off-beat double album concludes with a suave orchestral selection composed for that other distinguished Ellingtonian, Harry Carney.

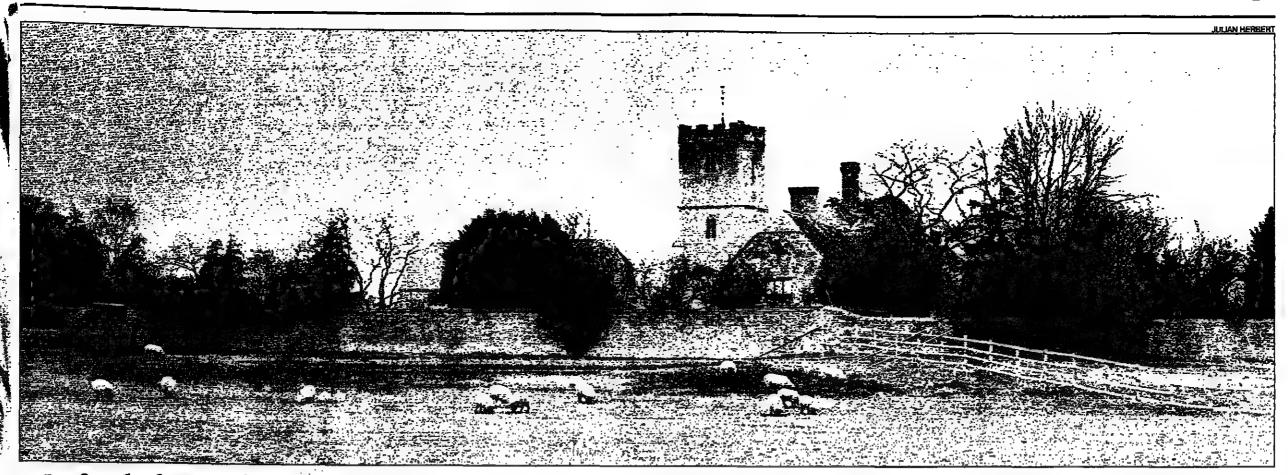
☐ FOURTH WORLD **Encounters of the Fourth** World

B+W Music BW045** WHEN they first came to Ronnie Scott's, many moons ago, Airto Moreira's band of percussion-driven fusioneers seemed on the verge of inventing a whole new Latin jazz vocabulary. As the years went by the tone grew more bom-bastic, the lyrical José Neto slowly turning into a big bad axe hero. By the time this live recording was made in Amsterdam, almost exactly a year ago, the hyperactivity quotient was still extremely high, but on the rare occasions when Neto throttles back, you still feel yourself in the presence of

* Worth hearing ** Worth considering *** Worth buying

a remarkable talent.

16



Fields of dreams become a thousand village greens

Oliver Gillie on millennium plans to establish green havens all over Britain

Oxfordshire village, by chance - and immediately fell in love. Sheep were grazing on a field in front of the church and the old manor house. It was the English rural idyll she had been searching for after spending years in Africa

"I was struck by the beauty of the scene," says Mrs Soulsby, "and immediately felt that nothing must ever be allowed to spoil it."

She bought a house in the village, was elected to the parish council, and found that one of the first items on the agenda was how the parish could buy the field in front of the church. The asking price, then £35,000, was beyond the resources of the parish. Mrs Soulsby sought help and was referred to the Countryside Commission, which is hoping to set up a scheme with the Millennium Fund to establish 1,000 new greens in villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

Stanford in the Vale is a picturebook village with a 12th-century church and houses built of local stone - some of them thatched, others using local slate. It overlooks the Vale of White Horse, with the road to the south. The area is steeped in history. According to the Wessex Chronicles, King Alfred rode his horse in the "Western valley" - probably the valley of the

lizabeth Soulsby came to White Horse. But Stanford in the Stanford in the Vale, an Vale is not a community of retired people wanting to preserve the old at the expense of the new. As well as traditional stone houses, there are several hundred other dwellings built by the council before and after the war, many of which are now owner-occupied. The village owns a leisure field which is used primariby the local football club, but

there is no cricket pitch.
"We are in the middle of the most beautiful countryside but there is nowhere for children to play or for old people to sit and enjoy the sunshine on a summer day," Mrs Soulsby says.
But now it looks as if the field

beside the church will soon belong to the village residents. It is one of 23 "millennium greens" established by the Countryside Commission as a pilot project. The Commission bopes to obtain support from the Millennium Fund to finance 1.000 before the year 2000. The Commission is providing half of the money and looks to other sources to provide the rest. A legal agreement will be made to protect the land for future generations. If the land were to be taken over for any other purpose, such as roads or housing, be provided elsewhere in the

The owner of the field, Hubert Flowse, has brought down his price to £27,500, and the Countryside



Top: the field in the Oxfordshire village of Stanford in the Vale that will soon belong to residents Above: an industrial site in Dormanstown, Cleveland, will also benefit from a millennium green

Commission has agreed to provide half the cost of buying and developing the field. It will be improved by the planting of trees and a hedge. Seating will be installed at one end, where parents can wait before collecting their children from the primary school next door, and at the other end, next to the ancient manor wall, there is a raised area which might be used as a stage for plays or prize-givings.

havens for birds, trees and hedgerow creatures, but most of all they will be havens for human beings. They are conceived as spaces where people will enjoy informal leisure

pursuits, such as kicking a ball around with their children, playing cricket, throwing frisbees or flying

Many of the millennium greens will be in densely populated city areas - some dominated by industry. Areas such as Dormanstown, near Redcar, Cleveland, which is situated midway between the for-mer Dorman Long's steelworks (now British Steel) and ICI's Wilton the 1920s as a garden city — a brave attempt to make the area attractive. But either the planners lost confidence, or ran out of money, because many of the trees that were

supposed to line the wide avenue roads were never planted. Now Redcar and Cleveland Bor-

ough Council is planning to create a millennium green on a space where old houses have been cleared. The site will be landscaped and planted with native trees, shrubs and wild flowers, which will defy the maze of pipework and chemical storage tanks a few hundred yards away. The green will provide a safe play area for children and a sateway to the proposed Cleveland community

Walking south from the green at Dormanstown, a hiker crosses

follow an old bridle track past Lazenby bank up to the Exton Hills, where there are views of the North Sea to the east. To the south there is open country leading to the North Yorkshire Moors — an area of wilderness stretching 25 miles to the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey in the south and Robin Hood's Bay in the

Whether or not millennium reens will become village greens in the legal sense will, it seems, be a matter for local people to decide. The law allows the greens to be used for agricultural shows for up to 12 days a year and, if the town or village has a right to have a market. they might also be used for stalls selling crafts.

The land for several of the

millennium greens has been donated by local authorities. However, these authorities sometimes don't want areas which they may intend to develop for housing to be tied up as village greens. It took Jim Briggs and his friends in Aldwick, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex. eight years to get a piece of land owned by Arun District Council registered as a village green. The land at Aldwick was a meadow left open when surrounding land was developed for private housing in 1967. As required by the Town and Country Planning Act, the meadow was destined to become the property of

Following administrative delays, however, it was not taken over by the council until 1987, by which time it had been used by residents for leisure purposes for 20 years. be recognised as a village green but were opposed by Arun Council. which wished to retain it as a realisable asset. After the first application failed, local people took advice from the Open Spaces Society and, in a second application four years later, evidence of 20 years leisure use of the meadow was accepted and it was registered as a village green.

The advantage of registration is that it confers certain rights of use for recreation which do not alter with a change of ownership, and it reduces the chances of the land being used for building development. Some 33 new greens throughout England have been registered since 1990, when it became easier because a 20-vear period had elapsed since the Commons Registration Act. Although most of the planned new greens will be only a few acres in size, it reverses the trend of the past 200-300 years, which has seen common land steadily enclosed by private owners.

 The Countryside Commission has an information pack for anyone interested in applying for funds for a millennium green. Write to: Millennium Greens, The Countryside Commission, 71 Kingsway, London WC2 B6ST. Getting Greens Registered —

a guide to law and procedure, £9 inc pop, is available from the Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Oxon RG9 2BA.

SAILING: If you don't know an injector from an impeller, engine lessons may save your life

Rescue for the mechanically challenged

probably regard the engine on your boat with a mixture of

awe and trepidation. Without it you can't get in and out of marinas; picking up moorings, especially in a tideway, can be challenging; and when the wind dies on you on a Sunday night and you are trying to get to work on Monday, you might just be facing one of those embarrassing calls to the office. And, crucially, engines can help to get us out of trouble.

Despite the degree to which we depend on engines, many sailors — experienced ones at that - know little about them. You only have to ask the

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Its statistics for lifeboat call-outs reveal that 34 per cent of all launchings to sail and powered pleasurecraft result from simple me-chanical failure; and the proportion of those call-outs is increasing every year.

As long as we pay our dues to the AA or RAC, we can get away with almost total ignorance of what is going on under our car bonnet. But in the middle of the North Sea. i's just you, your spares and our engine.

As a former dinghy sailor with a distaste for mechanical matters, I needed an introducion to the diesel on my boat. Vutcracker. Having spent 5,000 on a new Yanmar hree-cylinder during her refit ast year, and a pile more naving it put in, I had no lesire to wreck it through

The Essex Sailing School in viaylandsea, on the southern

sail, to use the power of the sail, to use the power of the wind and the tide, you offering Royal Yachting Assoary, is among many schools offering Royal Yachting Association-recognised one-day diesel courses for recreational sailors. The school runs usually for about six students at a time, at £56 a head.

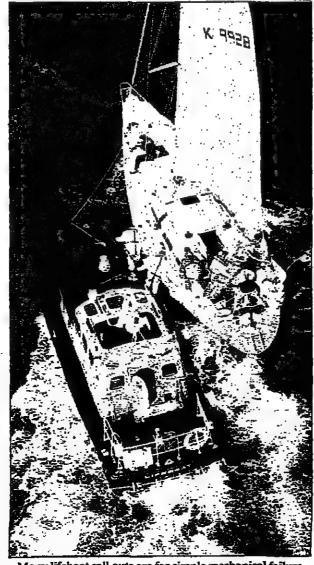
Mike Tyrrell, the school's principal and an engineer, believes the course is imperative for anyone embarking on the RYA's navigation and general seamanship programmes, such as the Day Skipper certifi-cate. The aim is to give people an idea of their engine system. to avoid faults that they themselves have caused, to show which spare parts to carry and how to solve simple problems at sea - so avoiding the need to go to a workshop or to call out a

n my day at the school there were two other "students", Anne and Malcolm Gilding, who have owned boats for years but, like so many of us, had found a long list of reasons to put off getting to know their heat exchanger from their manifold.

It was an incident near their holiday home at Puerto Andratx in Majorca, where they keep their Llaud - a 21ft, . double-ended traditional Spa-, nìsh fishing boat — that finally persuaded them to go back to school. A young couple in a speedboat suffered engine failure within sight of land but, unable to mend it themselves. were blown offshore and spent three days at sea. suffering severe dehydration, before they were picked up by a

fishing boat.
"Twe always put it off," said

Under Mr Tyrrell's tutelage, we spent a surprisingly inter-



Many lifeboat call-outs are for simple mechanical failure

Mr Gilding as he settled down to examine the school's demonstration engine block, complete with cut-away sections for ease of access and viewing. "But I'm glad we've got round to it. All our friends laughed when I said I was taking my wife on a diesel-engine course, but I could be ill or have an accident on the boat. I think the more Anne knows, the better."

esting day getting to grips with the "suck, squeeze, bang, blow" cycle of the diesel engine, the mysteries of direct or indirect injection, the vital role of oil in the engine, the fuel system and how to bleed it, the cooling system and the general dos and don'ts of marine Did you know, for example,

(I didn't) that diesels are best put to work immediately they are turned on, and that warming them up in neutral for 20 Next week: the supervacht

minutes before you leave your mooring does them more harm than good? It's when you return after sailing that it should be left to tick over for a while before you turn it off.

By the end of the day we

were talking about fine filters. injectors, the gallery, impellers and the governor. We even had tricky test questions such as: "If the thermostat is stuck in the closed position, what part of the engine would overheat first?" Answer: the cylinder head. Mrs Gilding admitted that

it was a lot more fun and easier to understand than she had expected. She also found it very useful. "I've always been a little wary about the engine. I used to think in the back of my mind that if it stopped, I wouldn't really know what to do. This has given me more confidence. Serious things can go wrong, but if it's just a hose going or something simple, then we should be able to

The RYA hopes that more and more people will attend the courses, not only to cut down the number of lifeboat call-outs to boats with often minor mechanical failure but to improve general standards of seamanship.

Unfortunately, though, it seems only the more conscientious types are doing the course. As John Hart, for 15 years coxswain of the Barry Lifeboat, who helped to devise the course, put it: "The most irresponsible people who need instruction are the ones who don't do the course. There's no allowing for the lunatic few whatever courses you put together or legislation you bring

EDWARD GORMAN

● For information about RYA-recognised engine courses, contact Jane Keohane at the RYA on 01703 627454, Similar courses are also provided by leading engine manufacturers, including Volvo Penta (01923 228544); Perkins (01733 5824(8); and Sabre (01202 893720).

Feather report

Beware the invasion of the berry snatchers

I MUST say some more about the waxwing, for the irruption of these birds into the British Isles this winter has proved to be quite spectacular - the biggest for 30 years. Flocks of 100 or more have been recorded in many parts of Britain. besides numerous smaller flocks and single birds. They have been driven down from Scandinavia and northern Russia by the shortage of rowan berries.

Most of them have been seen in town gardens or in hawthorn hedges on suburban waste ground. The reports of them on the Birdline telephone service (see below) have been quite comic - "behind Saleway", "in the garden of No 79", "near the Little Chef". This is no doubt because the hawthorn berries have already been largely stripped from the bushes by blackbirds and thrushes in the countryside, whereas in towns many cotoneasters and privet ber-ries are still to be had.

I SAW a flock of six at Ware in Hertfordshire last week, and it might be useful if I indicate what to look out for. They are tame, but they do lurk in the middle of hawthorns, rather than display themselves on the outside branches, so do peer into any berry-bearing tree. If you get so much as a glimpse of one, you will recognise it immediately. They are about as big as starlings and their head-crest is unmistakable. Sometimes, I noticed, it is sleeked back like a wedge, but at other times it looks fluffy.

They are pinkish birds, though they can seem quite dull in poor light. The head and crest often have a red glow, and the black eye-stripe and bib are conspicuous. The vellow and white marks on the wing are small, and the red blob like sealing wax on the wing is hard to see. But the



Waxwings catch snowliakes

yellow tip to the tail looks golden when the sun shines through it.

All the members of the flock sit quietly together in the bushes: then there is a flurry of berry-snatching, after which they all subside again. I

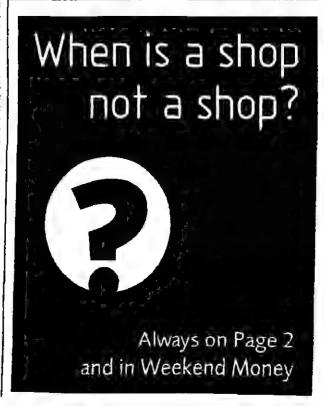
saw a pair sitting side by side like doves, even touching bills once. Their thin trill is distinctive, but not ear-catching. They eat snow, and have even been seen flying out to pick up a falling snowflake in the air. In flight, their grey rumps are conspicuous. They are said to fly like starlings, but their undulations reminded me more of great spotted woodpeckers. They are still around everywhere, but on the move.

DERWENT MAY • What's about: Birders — listen for the song of the chaffinch in wooded gardens and parks.

Twitchers — a pine bunting at Halcsowen, West Midlands: a long-billed dowitcher at Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall.

Details from Birdline (889) 703222.

Calls vest 40 a minute chean Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.



TRAVEL

BRITAIN: The haunting landscape of the Fens; ideas for entertaining children at half term ...

Winter in waterland

and featureless that even the hedges stand out. Picture the setting sun hanging in an endless sky. Then look towards the horizon to see an lith-century cathedral seemingly floating above the fields.

This is the scene as you approach Ely across the Fens. Medieval travellers met an even more dramatic sight -Ely Cathedral, the "ship of the Fens", rising out of the reeds on its island fortress.

Nowadays Ely (eel island) is an isle no more and the waters that have shaped East Anglia are temporarily tamed by science. But the flat Fen landscape, with a windmill here, a church there, can still exercise a powerful hold on the imagi-

Anyone who has read Graham Swift's Waterland will feel echoes of it on a winter morning as the mist rises from the sodden soil.

Fenlanders once lived their lives on the water — they shot wildfowl, caught eels, dug peat and cut down reeds to build stilt houses. All that changed in the 17th century when drainage schemes rescued the Fens from the sea, creating



The Normans started work on Ely Cathedral in 1081

England's richest area of farmland and altering the landscape for ever. But still there is a sense that nature will have the last word.

To see the Fens as they once were visit Wicken Fen, south of Ely, England's oldest nature reserve and a rare area of undrained fenland.

Ten miles of boggy footpaths lead you alongside lodes (canals which were once the area's main transport routes) and past the Fens' sole remaining wind pump to a group of "bog caks", entombed in peat for 4,000 years until they turned up in 1980 in a nearby field. The National Trust conpractices here, cutting sedge. reed and peat and using them wherever possible. around the reserve, then into the surrounding farmland to see how the area has changed since drainage.

a sizi ilanızı alı apro--

Wicken Fen attracts a good variety of wildlife but serious bird-watchers must visit the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's centre at Welney. A third of Europe's wild swans winter here on the Ouse Washes beside the Hundred Foot Drain, one of two parallel canals cut out in the 17th century to divert the course of the Ouse. Most are Whooper and Bewick's swans, migrants

from Iceland and Russia. From November to February you can see the swans under floodlight. At the height of winter you might see 3,000 of them. Go at dusk to watch them in flight, returning to their night-time resting-place.

But wherever you go in the Fens you are always drawn back to Ely. The city was founded in 673 AD by St Etheldreda, daughter of the East Anglian king, who received the island as a dowry. Her first husband died, her second marriage failed, and she retired to a hilltop retreat to establish an abbey on the

site of today's cathedral. Hereward the Wake used Ely as his last line of defence against William the Conqueror. But the Normans won. took the town, and in 1081 began building the cathedral the main reason for visiting Ely today.

The highlight is the 14thcentury octagonal lan-tern, 400 tons of lead and wood, providing a nighttime beacon visible for miles. But I have a soft spot for the Lady Chapel, England's largest, completed by Alan of Walsingham in 1322. Beheaded saints, defaced during the Reformation, line the walls; childish images of Adam and Eve adorn the ceiling.

The cathedral contains an excellent stained glass museum, its exhibits from 1240 (the oldest glass in England) to whimsical modern pieces, all well-lit, carefully explained and in a lovely setting.

TONY KELLY

• Where to stay: Lamb Hotel, Ely (01353 663574) — double BCB. E70.

 Black Hostelry — medieval monks' inn in grounds of Ely Cathedral (01353 662612). Double B&B, £49. ■ Where to eat: Dominiques St Mary's Street, Ely (01353 665011) — good snack lunches plus three-course evening meals. Wed-Sat 7-9pm, £16,50, No. smoking/credit cards. Öld Fire Engine House Palace Green. Ely (01353 662582) restaurant with art gallery. Three-

Monsters, masks and myths

Masque in Action: Members of the Seventeenth Century Heritage Centre re-enact the masque from the days of the Stuart court. The Banqueting House, Whitehall (0171-930 4179). Feb 21-24, iOam-4pm. Adults E3. children £2.

Brer Rabbit Visits Africa: More classic tales using marionettes. Puppet Theatre Barge, Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (017)-249 6876). Daily, Feb 17-25, 3pm. Adults E5.50, children E5.

Eighteenth Century London Workshop: Explore how people lived and try crafts used to make objects in the home. Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 (0171-739 9893). Feb 20-23 10.30am-12.45pm and 2-4pm. Free but donation requested for materials.

The Minibeasts: What happens when a little girl is shrunk to the size of an insect? Also Thumbelina's pupper show for three to five-year-olds. Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, SW 19 (0181-543 4888). Feb 8 to Apr 6. Times vary, Adults and children f6.50. (2) Thumbelina: Feb 20-24. Times vary. Adults and

Meet A Roman Actor and his lady who will tell you about life in Roman times.

children £3.90.

Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (V171-600 3699). Feb 20-23, 10.30am-3pm. Adults £3-50, children £1.75. Cinema Club: Cartoons and other

children's favourites on half-term Saturday and every weekend. The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Every Saturday, 2.30. Adults £3, children £2.50, membership £4. 🔁

Drama And Crafts Workshop: Run by Stop the Clock Theatre. Includes movement, music and drama for five to seven-year-olds. Myths. Monsters and Masks for eight to ten-year-olds. BAC, Lavender Hill,

Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Feb 19-23. Mornings for the younger age group, afternoons for the older. £25.50 for whole week, concessions for children of unemployed/students.

Budding Snappers: Introduction to Black and White Photography and Printing, a two-day, non-residential workshop by the Royal Photographic Society in different venues around Bristol from Febru-ary 19-20 for 11 to 16-year-olds. Price £26. Contact the RPS on 01225 462841. Not suitable for the disabled. See also Wiltshire for

Fantastic Fun: Arts and crafts, racket games, bouncing castles and prizes suitable for seven to 14-

year-olds. Bunyan Sports Centre, Mile Road, Bedford (01234 364481). Feb 19-23. 9. 15am to 4. 15pm. Half-day sessions £1.60. day £3. Bring a packed lunch.
(but telephone first)

BERKŞHIRE

More Adventures Of Noddy: Whatever will Enid Blyton's hero get up to next? The Hexagon, Queenswalk, Civic Centre, Reading (01734 591591). Feb 21-24 at varying times. Adults and children from

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Kids Time: A three-day pro-gramme for five to 12-year-olds with drama, arts, crafts, parachute mes, unihoc and video filming. Stoke Mandeville Communit Hall, Stoke Mandeville (01296 625993). Feb 21-23, 8.15am 3.30pm. Ei0 a day or E6 half day.

(but ring first).

Make Totem Poles using waste material. Eight-year-olds upwards. The workshop will tour villages in the north of the county. Details of times and places (01296 555210). Feb 19-23 from 10ат-3рт. Е4. 🔊

Youth Dance Project: Learn to dance with the Aletta Collins
Dance Company whatever your
ability, for 12-year-olds upwards.

Aylesbury Grammar, Walton
Street [01296 555210]. Feb 19-23. 10am-4pm. £20 for the fourday course.

DERBYSHIRE

Children's Week: Steam trains and farm park. Midland Rallway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derby (01773 747674). Feb 19-23, daily 11.15am-4.15pm. Adults £7.95. Two children free with each adult. (but ring first).

DORSET

Keep Busy: Roller-skating rink, dry ski slope, crazy golf, mountain bikes and more. Parkdean Holidays Warmwell Leisure Resort, near Weymouth (0191 224 0500). £150 for seven nights in one-badroom lodges, sleeping up to four. (a) (but ring first).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Mr Men la Music Land: Musical show for two to eight-year-olds.

Everyman Theatre, Regents Street, Cheltenham (01242 572573). Feb 30, Ipm and 3.30pm. Adults £6.50, children

Tropical Delights Varied pro-gramme about birds. Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire (01453 890333). Feb 17-25. Different events on different days so ring first. Adults 64.70, children 62.35, under-fives free, family ticket (two adults and two

HAMPSHIRE

Beyond The North Wind: Puppet and story-telling show. Story-telling show. Story-telling show. Story-telling show. Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 867986). Feb 11, 2pm. Adults E4, children E3.

drama workshop culminating in a show for friends and family. The Tower, Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 867986). Feb 19-22, 2pm for 7-11 year olds. £16. (but ring first).

KENT

Half-term Activities: Story-telling. dressing-up and nature trails. Leeds Castle, Maidstone (01622 765400). February 17-25, iOam to 3pm. Adults £7.50, children £5. Family ticket £21 (two adults and two children).

NORTHERN IRELAND Rocky Road Show: Learn about

rocks, crystals and fossils. Ulster Museum, Botanic Garde Stranmillis Road, Belfast. (01232 381251). Feb 18 2-4pm, Feb 19 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Free. Something To Do On A Wet Sunday Afternoom Children's show featuring circus skills. The Courtyard Theatre, Dough Road, Newtownabbey, near Belfast (01232 848287). Feb 18, 2.30pm. Adults and children E3.

OXFORDSHIRE

Curioxity: Hands-on science galialising in light, colour and sound. Freeze your shadow on the shadow screen, walk into a samera and use your fingers to

paint on a computer. The Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford (01865 79490). Open daily, 10am 4pm. Adults £1.75, children £1.50. Family £6:

Pinoccicio: Traditional family pentomime. The Playhouse, Be Oxford (01865 798600). Feb 20-24. Various times. Adults from £5.50, children from £4.50.

Myths and Legends Drama Workshop: Explore the world of fantasy on stage for five to 18-year-

The Theatre, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (01608 642350). Feb 19-23 from 10am. Prices vary from £ i.50 for an hour to £10 for a day. Booking advisable. (Inst ring first)

NOOTLAND

Pirates Ahoyi at the Deep Sea World Pirate Exhibition with an underwater safari — walkways; pirate boat and rock pools. Deep Sea World, North Deep Sea Worna, North Queensferry, Fife (01383 411880). Open Monday-Friday from 10am-4pm. Saturday and Sunday from 10am-6pm. Adults \$5.50, children \$3.50. Family ticket at \$15.06 November 19.50. £15.95 (for up to four

The Official Lock New Monder: Exhibition with a walk-through set and giant videos of Nessie. The Lochness Centre. Drumunadvodilit, Invern

Orthography (01456 450573). Open daily (01456 450573). Open daily (01456 450573). Open daily (01456 450574). Open daily (01456 450574) is \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 cm | \$4.00 Walk The Deck of Captain Scott's ship. The Discovery, and find out more about his remarkable exploits at the ture of this century.

Quay, Dundee (01382 201245). Open daily from 10am-4pm. Adults 64, children £2.90. SURREY

Presente Mr Row Rould Dubl's tale about three nasty farmers out

Harlequin Theatre, Warrick Quadrant, Redhill (01737 765547). Feb 13-17. Times vary. Adults and children E6.50: some

depending on the time. 🖎

Restival of Trees: Learn how to spot the different types, discover what trees are used for and wants how trugs (old-fashioned garden baskets) are made. Papermaking workshops and quizzes for five

year-olds upwards. Drusillas Park, Alfriston, East Sussex (01323 870656). Feb 17-25 from iOam-Spm. Adults 64.25, children £3. (accompanying helpers are free).

Platt and Groom Horses Clean tack and muck out, feed the geese pigs and chickens at these "work-ing with animals children's workshops". Also drop-in workshops in textiles, tapestry, felt and weaving for all ages. The Weald and Downland

Open Air Museum, Singleton, CU24361139 Children's animal workshops will be held on Feb 22-23 from !lam to 3pm. £iO per child or £8 for two or more children from the same family. Please book. Amission free. (but ring first).

Fastastic Mr Fox Rould Dahl's "Fox versus the Farmers" chil-dren's tale. Horsham Arts Centre, North

Street, Horsham (01403 268699). Feb 20-24 at 1pm and 4.30pm. Adults and children £5.75. WALES

Artshop: Learn how to make candles, masks, puppers, or join the "alternative orchestra" for bud-

ding musicians. Suitable for five to eight-year-olds. Wyeside Arts Centre, Bullth: Wyeside Arts Centre, Button Wells, Powys (01982 552555). Feb 19-23. Prices vary according to isses but the average morning session is £3. 🗟

The Snow Queen: A family play with puppets: Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth (0.1970 623232). February 17 at 2.30pm. Adu and children £2.99.

Mechanical Maynem: A hands-on science exhibition. Learn how cogs work and how to weigh sand. Maritime and Industrial Museum, Swansea (01792 650351). Feb 2-April 28. Admission

The Owl and the Passycat Play based on the traditional story and

St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (01222 878444), Feb 22 at Ham. Adulm E5, children

The Michael Faraday All-Electric show: Learn about science with tricks from the stage St Davia's Hall (as above) Children 63. (A)

WEST MIDIANDS

Rugby Day Camp Coaching: For eight to 16-year-ours, Norreconnectial. Held at Sutton Coldfield Rugby Rootball Club. Organised by Sportsclass, 130a Organi Road, Maccierfield (01625 618700). Feb 19-23. £69. Not suitable for the disabled.

WILTSHIRE

Introduction to Black and White Photography and Printing: Non-residential two-day course for 11 to 6-year-olds on location in Bradford-on-Avon from February 13-14 (see also Avon, above). Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath (01225 462841). Price £20. Course is not suitable for the

YORKSHIRE

Jorvic Viking Festival: Learn how the Vikings made their jewellery and watch a longship regatta and ritual boat-burning ceremony. Events taking place in different parts of York. Details 01904 643211. Feb 10-17 Most events free apart from craft gallery where jewellery is made. Adults 70p, children (Some events)

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope: play computer soologs games and more. Natural i-Tistory Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1.

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tion with full facilities, bars, restaurant, gar-

den and swimming pool. Excursions are avail-

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Answers from page 25 HAMEL

(c) A wether, from Afrikaans, Dutch hamel, German hammel a castrated ram. "Would your father have let me die rather than take a hamel from the flock of a rich, lazy Boer, who never counts his sheep?"

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY

NANCY DAWSON

(a) A sailor's dance or song; later a nancy-boy. Nancy Dawson is a name for a molly, an efferninate youth, apathetic, etc. The original Nancy Dawson was a noted prostitute, on whom there is a song still current among

MICROBUS

(a) A small vehicle designed to carry passengers in seats fitted as in a bus. A mongrel word created boringly from micro and bus. " This is a Volkswagen Microbus,' Sophy answered. No one had told me it looked as big as a trailer and that the span from ground to floorboard was well over three feet."

(b) In Judo or Karate, the Japanese name for the grade given to the less proficient; and such a pupil "Roger Young (Jesus), an American and 3rd kyu (learner grade) beat the Cambridge captain, a 1st dan (teacher grade) by two and a half points to nil. The whole nonsense is as barmy as the Eton Wall Game.

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Fields of dreams become a thousand village greens

Oliver Gillie on millennium plans to establish green havens all over Britain

lizabeth Soulsby came to Stanford in the Vale, an Oxfordshire village, by chance — and immediately fell in love. Sheep were grazing on a field in front of the church and the old manor house. It was the English rural idyll she had been searching for after spending years in Africa

"I was struck by the beauty of the scene." says Mrs Soulsby, "and immediately felt that nothing must ever be allowed to spoil it." She bought a house in the village,

was elected to the parish council, and found that one of the first items on the agenda was how the parish could buy the field in front of the church. The asking price, then E35,000, was beyond the resources of the parish. Mrs Soulsby sought help and was referred to the Countryside Commission, which is hoping to set up a scheme with the Millennium Fund to establish 1,000 new greens in villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

Stanford in the Vale is a picturebook village with a 12th-century church and houses built of local stone - some of them thatched, others using local slate. It overlooks the Vale of White Horse, with the road to the south. The area is steeped in history. According to the Wessex Chronicles, King Alfred rode his horse in the Western valley" - probably the valley of the

White Horse. But Stanford in the Vale is not a community of retired people wanting to preserve the old at the expense of the new. As well as traditional stone houses, there are several hundred other dwellings built by the council before and after the war, many of which are now owner-occupied. The village owns a leisure field which is used primariby the local football club, but

there is no cricket pitch.
"We are in the middle of the most beautiful countryside but there is nowhere for children to play or for old people to sit and enjoy the sunshine on a summer day," Mrs Soulsby says.
But now it looks as if the field

beside the church will soon belong to the village residents. It is one of 23 "millennium greens" established by the Countryside Commission as a pilot project. The Commission hopes to obtain support from the Millennium Fund to finance 1,000 before the year 2000. The Commission is providing half of the money and looks to other sources to provide the rest. A legal agreement will be made to protect the land for future generations. If the land were to be taken over for any other purpose, such as roads or housing. be provided elsewhere in the

The owner of the field, Hubert Howse, has brought down his price



Fop: the field in the Oxfordshire village of Stanford in the Vale that will soon belong to residents Above: an industrial site in Dormanstown, Cleveland, will also benefit from a millennium green

Commission has agreed to provide half the cost of buying and develop-ing the field. It will be improved by the planting of trees and a hedge. Seating will be installed at one end, where parents can wait before collecting their children from the primary school next door, and at the other end, next to the ancient manor wall, there is a raised area which might be used as a stage for plays or prize-givings.

havens for birds, trees and hedgerow creatures, but most of all they will be havens for human beings. They are conceived as spaces where to £27,500, and the Countryside people will enjoy informal leisure many of the trees that were

pursuits, such as kicking a ball around with their children, playing cricket, throwing frisbees or flying

Many of the millennium greens will be in densely populated city areas - some dominated by industry. Areas such as Dormanstown, near Redcar, Cleveland, which is situated midway between the former Dorman Long's steelworks (now British Steel) and ICI's Wilton the 1920s as a garden city - a brave attempt to make the area attractive. But either the planners lost confidence, or ran out of money, because

supposed to line the wide avenue roads were never planted.

Now Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is planning to create a millennium green on a space where old houses have been cleared. The site will be landscaped and planted with native trees, shrubs and wild flowers, which will defy the maze of pipework and chemical storage tanks a few hundred yards away. The green will children and a gateway to the proposed Cleveland community

Walking south from the green at Dormanstown, a hiker crosses follow an old bridle track past Lazenby bank up to the Exton Hills, where there are views of the North Sea to the east. To the south there is open country leading to the North Yorkshire Moors - an area of wilderness stretching 25 miles to the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey in the south and Robin Hood's Bay in the

Whether or not millennium reens will become village greens in the legal sense will, it seems, be a matter for local people to decide. The law allows the greens to be used for agricultural shows for up to 12 days a year and, if the town or village has a right to have a market, they might also be used for stalls selling crafts.

The land for several of the

millennium greens has been donat-ed by local authorities. However, these authorities sometimes don't want areas which they may intend to develop for housing to be tied up as village greens. It took Jim Briggs and his friends in Aldwick, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex, eight years to get a piece of land owned by Arun District Council registered as a village green. The land at Aldwick was a meadow left open when surrounding land was developed for private housing in 1967. As required by the Town and Country Planning Act, the meadow was destined to become the property of

Following administrative delays, however, it was not taken over by the council until 1987, by which time it had been used by residents for leisure purposes for 20 years.

be recognised as a village green but were apposed by Arun Council. which wished to retain it as a realisable asset. After the first application failed, local people took advice from the Open Spaces Society and, in a second application four years later, evidence of 20 years leisure use of the meadow was accepted and it was registered

as a village green.

The advantage of registration is that it confers certain rights of use for recreation which do not alter with a change of ownership, and it reduces the chances of the land being used for building development. Some 33 new greens throughout England have been registered since 1990, when it became easier because a 20-year period had elapsed since the Commons Registration Act. Although most of the planned new greens will be only a few acres in size, it reverses the trend of the past 200-300 years, which has seen common land steadily enclosed by private owners.

 The Countryside Commission has an information pack for anyone interested in applying for funds for a millennium green. Write to: Millennium Greens, The Countryside Commission, 71 Kingsway, London WC2 B6ST.

Getting Greens Registered —

a guide to law and procedure, £9 inc p&p, is available from the Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA.

SAILING: If you don't know an injector from an impeller, engine lessons may save your life

Rescue for the mechanically challenged

f. like me, you go to sea to sail, to use the power of the wind and the tide, you probably regard the engine on your boat with a mixture of awe and trepidation.

Without it you can't get in and out of marinas; picking up moorings, especially in a tideway, can be challenging; and when the wind dies on you on a Sunday night and you are trying to get to work on Monday, you might just be facing one of those embarrassing calls to the office. And, crucially, engines can help to get us out of trouble.

Despite the degree to which we depend on engines, many sailors — experienced ones at that - know little about them.

You only have to ask the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Its statistics for lifeboat call-outs reveal that 34 per cent of all launchings to sail and powered pleasurecraft result from simple mechanical failure, and the proportion of those call-outs is increasing every year.

As long as we pay our dues to the AA or RAC, we can get away with almost total ignorance of what is going on under our car bonnet. But in the middle of the North Sea. it's just you, your spares and

As a former dinghy sailor with a distaste for mechanical matters, I needed an introduction to the diesel on my boat, Nutcracker. Having spent 65,000 on a new Yanmar three-cylinder during her refit last year, and a pile more naving it put in, I had no lesire to wreck it through

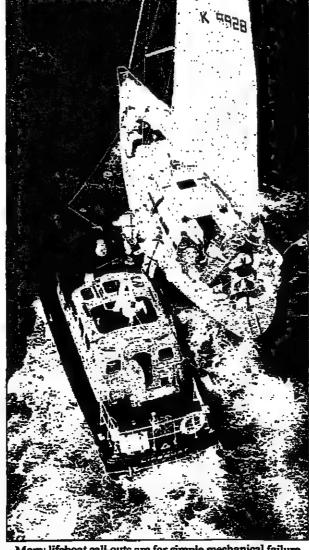
Maylandsea, on the southern

ary, is among many schools offering Royal Yachting Association-recognised one-day diesel courses for recreational sailors. The school runs around six courses a year, usually for about six students at a time, at £56 a head.

Mike Tyrrell, the school's principal and an engineer, believes the course is imperative for anyone embarking on the RYA's navigation and general seamanship programmes, such as the Day Skipper certifi-cate. The aim is to give people an idea of their engine system. to avoid faults that they themselves have caused, to show which spare parts to carry and how to solve simple problems at sea - so avoiding the need to go to a workshop or to call out a

n my day at the school there were two other "students", Anne and Malcolm Gilding, who have owned boats for years but, like so many of us, had found a long list of reasons to put off getting to know their heat exchanger from their

It was an incident near their holiday home at Puerto Andratx in Majorca, where they keep their Llaud - a 21ft, double-ended traditional Spanish fishing boat — that finally persuaded them to go back to school. A young couple in a speedboat suffered engine failure within sight of land but, unable to mend it themselves. were blown offshore and spent three days at sea, suffering severe dehydration, before morance. they were picked up by a fishing boat.



Many lifeboat call-outs are for simple mechanical failure

Mr Gilding as he settled down to examine the school's demonstration engine block, complete with cut-away sections for ease of access and viewing. "But I'm glad we've got round to it. All our friends laughed when I said I was taking my wife on a diesel-engine course. but I could be ill or have an accident on the boat. I think the more Anne knows, the Under Mr Tyrrell's tutelage.

esting day getting to grips with the "suck, squeeze, bang, blow" cycle of the diesel engine, the mysteries of direct or indirect injection, the vital role of oil in the engine, the fuel system and how to bleed it, the cooling system and the general dos and don'ts of marine

Did you know, for example, (I didn't) that diesels are best put to work immediately they are turned on, and that warm-"I've always put it off," said we spent a surprisingly intering them up in neutral for 20

minutes before you leave your mooring does them more harm than good? It's when you return after sailing that it should be left to tick over for a while before you turn it off.

By the end of the day we

were talking about fine filters, injectors, the gallery, impellers and the governor. We even had tricky test questions such as: "If the thermostat is stuck in the closed position, what part of the engine would overheat first? Answer: the cylinder head.

Mrs Gilding admitted that it was a lot more fun and easier to understand than she had expected. She also found it very useful. "I've always been a little wary about the engine. I used to think in the back of my mind that if it stopped, I wouldn't really know what to do. This has given me more confidence. Serious things can go wrong, but if it's just a hose going or something simple, then we should be able to

The RYA hopes that more and more people will attend the courses, not only to cut down the number of lifeboat call-outs to boats with often minor mechanical failure but to improve general standards of seamanship.

Unfortunately, though, it seems only the more conscientious types are doing the course. As John Hart, for 15 years coxswain of the Barry Lifeboat, who helped to devise the course, put it: "The most irresponsible people who need instruction are the ones who don't do the course. There's no allowing for the lunatic few whatever courses you put together or legislation you bring

EDWARD GORMAN

■ For information about RYA-recognised engine courses, contact Jane Keohane at the RYA on 01703 627454. Similar courses are also provided by leading engine manufacturers. including Volvo Penta (01923 228544): Perkins (01733 582408); and Sabre (01202 893720).

Next week: the superyacht

Feather report

Beware the invasion of the berry snatchers

I MUST say some more about the waxwing, for the irruption of these birds into the British Isles this winter has proved to be quite spectacular - the biggest for 30 years. Flocks of 100 or more have been recorded in many parts of Britain, besides numerous smaller flocks and single birds. They have been driven down from Scandinavia and northern Russia by the shortage of

rowan berries. Most of them have been seen in town gardens or in hawthorn hedges on suburban waste ground. The reports of them on the Birdline telephone service (see below) have been quite comic — "behind Safeway", "in the garden of No 79", "near the Little Chef". This is no doubt because the hawthorn berries have al-ready been largely stripped from the bushes by blackbirds and thrushes in the countryside, whereas in towns many cotoneasters and privet berries are still to be had.

I SAW a flock of six at Ware in Hertfordshire last week, and it might be useful if I indicate what to look out for. They are tame, but they do lurk in the middle of hawthorns, rather than display themselves on the outside branches, so do peer into any berry-bearing tree. If you get so much as a glimose of one, you will recognise it immediately. They are about as big as starlings and their head-crest is unmistakable. Sometimes, I noticed, it is sleeked back like a wedge, but at other times it looks fluffy.

They are pinkish birds, though they can seem quite dull in poor light. The head and crest often have a red glow, and the black eye-stripe and bib are conspicuous. The yellow and white marks on the wing are small, and the red blob like sealing wax on the wing is hard to see. But the



Waxwings catch snowflakes

yellow trp to the tail looks golden when the sun shines through it. All the members of the flock

sit quietly together in the bushes; then there is a flurry of berry-snatching, after which they all subside again. I

saw a pair sitting side by side like doves, even touching bills once. Their thin trill is distinctive, but not ear-catching. They eat snow, and have even been seen flying out to pick up a falling snowllake in the air. In flight, their grey rumps are conspicuous. They are said to fly like starlings, but their undulations reminded me more of great spotted wood-

DERWENT MAY OERWEINT INTAY

What's about Birders — listen
for the song of the chaffinch in
wooded gardens and parks.
Twitchers — a pine bunning at
Halesowen, West Midlands: a
long-billed dowitcher at
Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall.
Details from Birdline (89) 700222.
Calls. cost. 42n. a minute chean Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

peckers. They are still around everywhere, but on the move.



ROMANTIC PARIS: When all's right with the world, the French capital has never been easier to reach

WHERE once air travel was sophisticated, it is now uncivilised. Delays and stress come with the plane ticket. Thus, when travelling to Paris, its seems sensible to leave the roaring, drinking. toy donkey-buying populace trapped in a holding pattern above Heathrow, and take the train instead.

The Eurostar train is psychologically far less damaging than dealing with airports and ferries. There are no queues, since passports are usually checked on the train. A weekend in Paris or Brussels has suddenly become no different, in terms of travel, from one in Yorkshire or Cornwall. The British now slip under the Channel to see major exhibitions before they come to London, or enjoy lowerpriced Paris opera tickets.

The Eurostar takes three hours to Paris, and the plane 45 minutes. But if you add an hour to Heathrow by Tube. checking in, the hassle of retrieving luggage and escaping the satellites at Charles de Gaulle airport, as well as the trip in to central Paris, it is more like four.

The cheapest weekend Eurostar ticket is £59 return, £69 if you travel on a Friday, and there is no requirement to book a fortnight ahead. This compares with £69 on British Airways if you book ahead, plus an airport tax of £7, plus £20

for a taxi from Charles de Gaulle. When you rise from the scrum beneath Waterloo station into the Eurostar terminal, it is a different world. The sharknosed TGV trains are grey, with a yellow

and help to put your bags on the train. There is a French-style café, a bureau de change and trolleys which fit on the

livery stripe. Staff in yellow

and blue suits greet you in

your preferred language.

In its initial stages, the service was shaky, but now 85 per cent of trains run on time. The Eurostar had its busiest weekend so far during the France-Scotland rugby international, with 17,500

passengers. Normally, many of the trains are half empty, giving one a feeling of value for money.

The food is the only let-down. In first class, at £220 return, you get a fine meal on real china featuring salmon and Belgian chocolates - but those in standard class are sadly disappointed. Fantasies of a warm tarte aux poireaux. (leek quiche) or even steak frites and a nice glass of Burgundy are crushed. The efforts of Gardner Merchant, the mass catering company, are no better than

British Rail's. The croque monsieur. ordered with great anticipation, is rather dull and soggy. The wine comes in those teeny bottles, and it seems rude to order timee at once.

The journey through the Tunnel itself takes 20 minutes and then the train manager announces: "We are now in France. The train is about to reach its full speed of 300kmph." The slight to the laggardly British is clear.

KATE MUIR

Happy returns in the city of light

intimacies but all that follows has a direct relevance. A short time ago my partner, Mary, turned 40. Albeit fresh and frolicsome. there was no denying a personality in trauma. By way of antidote, I planned a wild. romantic extravaganza. a blissful memory to comfort her on the slide to senility.

I chose Paris as a city of happy associations, superb food (culinary delights take precedence after a certain age) and with a new high-speed rail link to invoke the age of

We made a good start. Almost. The gleaming symbol of Anglo-French technology pulled out of Waterloo on time stopped, and pulled back in again. A power failure, apparently. We finally got under way half an hour later. It was then that the "purser" (very posh, these trains) came on the Tannoy to announce an industrial dispute in Paris which, for reasons that were never entirely clear, prevented firstclass passengers from enjoying a full breakfast menu. Instead, we were served with a selection of what tasted like cardboard cutouts of the food we might have enjoyed if the normally.

However, the lourney itself was an unqualified success. A smooth and speedy excursion across the fields of southern England and northern France with a 25-minute bit in the middle which has passengers staring out into a subterranean blackness. The Channel Tunnel has nothing to show but you can't help looking at it in wonderment.

A taxi from the Gard du Nord took us to the Hôtel de Crillon on the Place de la Concorde. For the uninitiated. this is no ordinary lodging house. Other hotels may match the Crillon for sheer luxury but few, if any, can aspire to its style. The only first-class hotel in Paris still under family control, it extols imperial splendour with its palatial 18th-century façade and high-ceilinged rooms with gold-painted. twiddly furniture. Modesty forbids me to specify the dimensions of our suite; suffice to say the grand piano in the corner did not look out of

The front view of the hotel. over the Place de la Concorde, has to be one of the finest cityscapes in Europe. The far



At night the Place de la Concorde breaks up into a riot of illumination with vehicles racing across the square. In the background the Eiffel Tower is picked out in incandescent glory

side of the square is bordered by the Seine and beyond is the National Assembly. Far to the eft is the Pantheon, Notre Dame and the Louvre. To the right, the gold dome of Les Invalides shines like a beacon. while a little further on the Tower. At night the scene breaks up into a riot of illumination with vehicles racing all ways across the square, the pleasure boats passing sedately along the Seine and the famous landmarks picked

out in incandescent glory. With supper booked for Les Ambassadeurs, the grandest of the Hôtel de Crillon's two restaurants, we settled for a light lunch (if such a thing is to he had in Paris) at the Bofinger on the rue de la Bastille. We took the pretty route, a halfhour walk through little streets lined with galleries

selling pictures at affordable prices. It was a reminder that Paris is still the natural home for artists. They have here a market for paintings that is not restricted to chocolate-box

Parading as the oldest brasbe a tourist trap. But the bubbling atmosphere overcomes the confusion of accents, and fruits de mer or choucroute, the two favourite dishes, taste all the better for serving under a splendid Art Deco glass dome.

The afternoon was handed over to culture. With time at a premium we avoided the big museums in favour of the easily manageable Musée National Picasso on the rue de Thorigny. While not the most outstanding of galleries devoted to a single artist (the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam

takes some beating) the pictures, many from Picasso's collection, reflect the full range of his imagination. The gallery is a beautifully covered 17thcentury town mansion, as impressive in its own way as the treasures it contains.

nd so back to the Hôtel de Crillon and the feast of Les Ambessadeurs. While Mary fixed on the fole

gras (served warm), a sensitive tion led me to the lobster salad. We both followed with lapin, as soft and delectable as the accompanying mustard sauce. The wine was a problem. I looked towards a vintage of Mary's year of birth but the 1955 Chateau Cheval Blanc St Emilion cost more than £600. There had to be a limit and this was it. Another stab at the wine list produced a

1989 Margaux at a figure some way short of a remortgage. The ambience was formal but not inhibiting. Among the other bill-payers were several leek, grey-haired men, who looked as if they had done well

out of business or politics. dining with elegant women half their age. The price of wine did not figure in their

conversations. The memory of a superb meal remained strong well into the next day when we with a brisk walk along the Champs-Elysées. It is always a joy but particularly on a Sunday morning when the traffic is light and there is more opportunity to stand and stare. A truly diverting sight was the gloriously politically incorrect poster for the movie. Pret-a-Porter: six naked women marching purposely towards the camera. Not seen in London, who would dare say that London is poorer as a

Culinary progress communed with lunch at the Restaurant Paul, on the Place Dauphine, a small family concern, cosy in its simplicity. We ste well but not so well as to regret having to bypass the journey. This was because the Eurostar meal was medible. though the champagne aperi-

result? Me, for one.

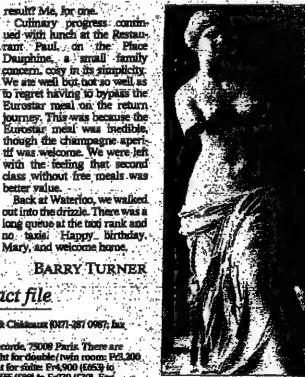
better value. -Back at Waterioo, we walked out into the drizzle. There was a long queue at the taxi rank and no taxis. Happy birthday. Mary, and welcome home.

BARRY TURNER

Paris: fact file

☐ The author was assisted by Relais & Chisseaux (0171-287 0987; fax 0171-437 0241).

☐ Hôtel de Crillon, 10 place de la Concorde, 75006 Paris. There are 120 rooms and 43 states. Rates per night for double (twin room: F/3,20) (E426) to Fr4,100 (E546). Rates per night for sinite Fr4,900 (E653) to Fr32,500 (E4,330). Breakfast is from Fr155 (E26) to Fr230 (E30). For reservations contact the Hotel Crillon (00 331-44 71 15 0); fax: 00 331-44 71 15 03, or Relais & Châteaux on the number above.



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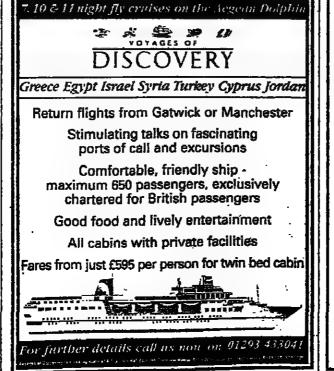
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THERE are more than 1,400 hotels to choose from in Paris. Many are delightful, others morbid. Here is a list of tried-and-tested favourites, and not too expensive. The emphasis is on charm and comfort, and the hotels include some of the most romantic nooks the city has to offer, though the cheapest are necessarily rather basic. Now is a good time to go, because many hotels are offering discounts.

 Prices, given in francs, are per room per night based on two people sharing. As Weekend goes to press, the exchange rate is Fr7.57 = £1.

☐ PRIZE COLLECTION

If a single reservations number can suit almost any Paris hotel needs, it is Compagnie Generale Imobilier et de Service's toll-free central reservations number, 0800 895 950, for their 28 hotels (from two to four stars). Their excellence and charm are exceptions to the customary rule that company-run hotels lack personality and flair.

At the top of the range is the superbly manorial Parc Victor Hugo, Avenue Raymond-Poincaré, 16e: five stately buildings around a courtyard near th Trocadero, renovated in a "British" style under the direction of Nina Campbell. It is the workplace of Joël Robuchon, France's most sought-after and admired chef. From Fr2,300.

The beautifully decorated Baltimore, between the Etoile and Trocadero on Avenue Kléber, 16e, is handily poised above the Boissière Métro station. It must appeal even to Euro-sceptics: its restaurant, Bertie's, offers only British food. From Frl,990.

The Castille in Rue Cambon, 1er, has an Italian flavour and offers access to the Ritz's health centre. From Fr2,300. CGIS's 18 Libertel establishments two or three-star hotels - are similarly brilliant at their own level. They include the Bellechasse (from Fr910), near the Orsay museum, the Grand Turenne (from Fr840) in the Marais, the Moolin (from Fr810) in Pigalle and the chimzily



Victorianised Terminus Nord, which offers huge rooms at relatively small prices (Fr500-Fr675), right beside Eurostar's Paris terminal.

☐ IDIOSYNCRATIC CHARM The Hotel du Jeu de Paume: 5 Rue St Louis-en-l'île (43 26 14 18; fax 40 46 02 76). A stunning discovery in what was the royal tennis court on the Isle St. Louis: a miracle of glass, timbers and hanging galleries. The rooms (from Fr795) are light, airy and delightful.

Saint-Merry: 78, Rue de la Verrerie, 4e (42 78 14 15; fax 40 29 66 82). A gothic riot, installed in the presbytery of the Eglise St-Merri and fitted out in darkly ecclesiastical style. Fr400-Fr950. Vicux Paris: 9 Rue Git-le-Coetir, 6e (43

54 41 66; 43 26 00 15). Louis XI Left Bank

building in a quiet alley near the Seine. Fr990-Fr1470. Terrass' Hôtel: 12-14 Rue Joseph de

Maistre, 18e (46 06 72 85). Overlooking Montmartre cemetery. The roof-terrace restaurant has a terrific view over Paris. Fr930-Fr1,230. Saint-Grégoire: 43 Rue de l'Abbé-

Grégoire, 6e (45 48 23 23). Near Montparnasse, it has a yellow and pink decor, nice old furniture, with breakfasts in a vaulted cellar. Pr760-Fr890. Grands Hommes: 17 Place du Panthéon, 5e (46 34 19 60). The birthplace of Surrealism, comfortable and friendly, Opposite the Paritheon. Fr635-Fr760. Hôtel de la Bretonnerie: 27 Rue Sainte-Croix-de la-Bretonnerie, 4e (48 87 77 63; fax 42 77 26 78). Enthusiastically run in a 17th-century building between the Pom-pidou Centre and the Marais. Most rooms big, some with beams. Fr620-

CHEAP BUT CHEERFUL
Esméralda: 4 Rue St-Julien-le-Pauvre, 5e (43 54 19 20). The owner of this quaint little l6th-century place is a painter. sculptor and writer. Some rooms have

views of Notre Dame, Fr450-Fr490. Prima Lepic: 29 Rue Lepic, 18e (46 06 44 64). Welcoming family run hotel in the market street of Montmartre. Breakfast in a trompe-l'oeil orangery. Fr350-

Nesie: 7 Rue de Nesie, 6e (43 54 62 41). Exotic decor, and urban farmyard.

Cash only - up front. Fr260-Fr320. ☐ BASIC BARGAINS

Hôtel des Arts: 7 Cité Bergère, 9e. Wellrun and friendly, in a quiet alley with other good cheap hotels, Fr325-Fr380. Pratic Hôtel: 20, Rue de l'Ingénieur Keller, 15e. Clean, friendly hotel near the Eiffel Tower. Fr225-430.

Idéal: 3 Rue des Trois-Frères, 18e (46 06 . 63 63). Clean bargain close to the Sacré-Coeur funicular, Fr125-Fr250.

ROBIN YOUNG

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TRAVEL

... a second honeymoon in a north Devon hotel; and the smart way to score romantic Brownie points

Rewritten version of bride's bed revisited

Highbullen Ho-tel in 1976 champagne and confetti. Our memories are of a warm, red room, acres of wood panelling, a big, brass bed and feeling slightly miffed at being asked not to smoke in the restaurant. Wrapped up in the brand-new sensation of being married, we delighted in good food and wine, scarcely noticed the sporting facilities on offer, and elt pleasantly marooned by the floods that beset north Devon that year.

It was raining again when we revisited the hotel in Chittlehamholt last summer, this time with children in tow. It is always a little nerveracking returning to a place you remember with affection. Perhaps our recollections were distorted by honeymoon happiness. Perhaps this was not the right place to bring children: after all the hotel does stipulate "No children under

We need not have worried on either count. If anything, Highbullen has improved. A Victorian Gothic mansion full of turrets and towers, it stands in a parkland estate dotted with cottages, farms and lodges, most of which have been converted into additional guest bedrooms. Just over a year ago Highbullen acquired 85 acres of ancient woodland inhabited by wild red and roe deer, foxes and badgers. Another recent addition is an 18-mile stretch of fishing rights along the banks of the River Mole. A second restaurant added in the 1980s juts out over a wooded valley and the views, especially at sunset, are magnificent. Pious formeredly endorse the restaurant's

no-smoking policy. As soon as we saw the abundance of other families with adolescent and teenage children, we relaxed. High-bullen is an informal, familyrun hotel. Hugh and Pam Neil first came across the house in 1963 - "a ridiculous place full of bats and broken windows. no water and a decrepit gener-ator" — and moved in with their two small children, both

involved with the running of

Mrs Neil, a devotee of auctions since the 1940s, has furnished many rooms at Highbullen with her "finds". The vast ornate Victorian mahogany bed in our room cost £13 in the 1950s and the pale green, tasselled velvet curtains were a mere El. Mrs Neil uses antique textiles she has collected to make curtains and lampshades for the bedrooms. She dries her own flowers, and every nook and cranny of the hotel is filled with dried arrangements and, in season, vases of fresh sweet peas and roses from the garden.

On our honeymoon we rarely emerged from our comfortable cocoon. A bracing tenmile walk in pouring rain to Barnstaple (and the return trip



Highbullen Hotel: a Victorian Gothic mansion set in a parkland estate dotted with cottages, farms and lodges



A honeymoon bedroom: furnished with antiques

foray into the outside world. The sporting facilities we had ignored then as a couple were now a boon for a family. We had hardly unpacked before our son and daughter had ferreted out the indoor putting green and table tennis room. Later, Helen swam like a dolphin in the deserted, kidney-shaped indoor pool while I had my toe nails painted bright red in the leisure complex and Paul finally managed

Far Yat CALL 0171 486 3388

AND NORTH CYPRUS

over only to achieve his an thrash his father on the tennis court. Croquet on the lawn. such a genteel game when played by other families, proved a great hit with our offspring who reveiled in sending opponents's balls plum-

meting down the hillside.
Rain did not deter the more intrepid guests from taking full advantage of Highbullen's offer of unlimited free golf on the nine-hole course (18 holes from this spring). Although a

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half board discovering

professional is available for essons, the attitude towards golf at Highbullen is pleasantly laid-back. The Neils were happy for Helen to try to hit a ball around a few holes, an idea that would cause apoplexy at most Home Counties golf clubs. One elderly pair of ladies only plays golf during their annual visit to the hotel because they feel it's the one course where they will not be sneered at or patronised.

his relaxed attitude permeates the atmosphere at Highbullen. When the sun shines guests can eat the very good, nexpensive bar snacks (salads, sandwiches, lasagne etc) in a pretty, flower-filled courtyard. Dinner is an informal affair, so a tie and jacket are not essential. The food is pleasant (Delia Smith once worked in the kitchen), and our son declared the meringue filled with clotted cream one of the best dishes he has tasted in months — but the menu is not aimed at anyone counting calories or cholesterol. Many of the main courses are served in rich sauces, vegetables come smothered in butter and the dessert list is sinful. If asked, the staff were always willing to leave out the butter or sauces and to produce fruit salads and low-fat milk, but f did wonder if I was the only person among so many sporting types who was worried about healthy eating.

The emphasis at Highbullen is on comfort rather than frills. It is full of unexwell-stocked library, the bubbling spa bath and a room devoted to billiards. Although the bathrooms had few of the small luxuries normally associated with four or five-star hotels, the overall effect is of a large, rambling, pleasant and comfortable country house...

If we were not able to recapture fully the delightful

self-indulgence and content-ment we had enjoyed as newly weds, this was due to family demands, not the hotel. We are currently hatching plans to farm the children out for a weekend so we can return to Highbullen on our own. Perhaps in time for our 20th

SARA DRIVER Highbullen Hotel,
 Chittlehamholt, Umberleigh, North Devon EX37 9HD (01769 540561).

◆ The Driver family wen guests of Crystal Premier Britain (0181-390 3513) which offers breaks at the hotel from £47.50

VALENTINE GETAWAYS

IF HUGGY-BUN really loves Pooh-Bear and wants to demonstrate the fact on Valentine's Day, that loving message in the classified ads ought to be backed up with a weekend somewhere romantic. Romantic locations are plentiful and a phone call to one of the following places could provide a bonus - hugs and kisseswise — in the weeks to come. Prices are the lowest available for a weekend (two nights)bed and breakfast, per person, unless otherwise stated.

The Cotswolds have many romantic corners, and candle lit dinners are just one feature Lygon Arms in Broadway (01386 852255, E225 with dinner and a bottle of champagne). Other attractions include a country club with pool and solarium.

The north Norfolk coast is full of romantic locations, from splendid towns such as King's Lynn, to pretty villages such as Wells-next-the-Sea and historic Walsingham. It can be breezy, so wrap up well and book in at the warm and nospitable Congham Hall (01485 600250, £170 with dinner), an elegant Georgian house in Hillington now con-verted into a first-class hotel.

MOVING north, the Gulf Stream warms Portpatrick in Wigtownshire, on the west coast of Scotland, where the small but perfect Knockinaam Lodge (01776 810471, £125 with dinner) has sub-tropical gardens, a Michelin-rosetted restaurant, and a programme of champagne tastings.
All right for some, but what

about people with children? No problem if you book in for a romantic weekend at Calend Manor (01666 890391, £130 with dinner), a charming manor-house hotel near Tetbury in Gloucester. This hotel will look after the children while you and the Flopsy Burny relax in one of two fine

Other hotels offering child care include Woolley Grange (01225 864705, £97), close to ever-romantic Bath, and Ockenden Manor (01444 416111, £138 with dinner), in the ancient village of Cuckfield in West Sussex, from where adventurous lovers can take their partners ballooning, just to give the weekend a lift

Romantic weekends require romantic locations, so cities such as York should do well. especially for those who stay at Middlethorpe Hall (01904 641241, £188 with dinner) a splendid hotel set in a William and Mary mansion.

London has plenty of corners and can be explored at leisure from small, centrally located hotels such as the Athenaeum (0800 964470, £180) - anyone who proposes while dining in the restaurant on Valentine's Day and then marries that person can have a free honeymoon stay - or Dukes Hotel in St James's (0171-491 4840, E180), close to the splendours of Royal London ... and the Knights-bridge shopping area.

Finally, try one of the follow ing: Llangoed Hall (01874 754525, £170 with dinner; Feb 14. £60 double room B&B) near Hay on Wye; the Maes y Neuadd Hotel (01766 780200 £130 with dinner) near Harlech in Snowdonia; the Well House (01579 342001, £144) at St Keyne, near Liskard in Cornwall: Johnstounburn House (01875 833696, £130) at Humbie in East Lothian; and the Manor Hotel (01308 897616, £100 with dinner) at West Bexington on the Dorset coast. All these places offer a warm welcome, good food, attentive staff and a romantic atmosphere. After that it is up to you; most lovers would prefer it that way.

> ROBIN NEILLANDS Rendezvous, page 9



grottoesthrough which runs the Holy River. Return to the hotel

via Ehden where we will have lunch at Nabeh Mar Sarkis.

Day 6 Travel south to Byblos,

whose temples are 4,000 years old. It is still enclosed by ramparts

dating 3000 BC and is dominated

withe keep of the Frankish castle.

tour of Beirut will be made taking

in the main points. We then pro-

ceed to our base for the next two nights, the 5-star Chtoura Palace

near Zhale.

Day 7 Travel to Baalbeck,
'City of the Sun'. The acropolis is

the largest and best preserved corpus of Roman architecture

left. Return in the late afternoon to the hotel for dinner and over-

night in Zhale.

Day8 in the morning depart.

Zhale for the Lebanese Syran horder for Damascus airport to

Denarture '

. 2650

.**3625**

£595

. 6650

£550

.8330

.£175

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March 6, 13.

May 1, 8 May 15, 22 ...

March 20.27.

April 10, 17, 24 ...

Our newly to be inaugurated flight from London Gatwick to Damascus enables us to offer a comprehensive visit to two of the most important countries of aniquity in the Middle East, which have been little-visited in the recent past. The Syrian section of the itinerary takes in the fa-miliar sites of Damascus, Crac des Chevaliers and Palmyra whilst in Lebonon we visit both theancient sites of Baalbeck and Palmyra together with a restful two-night stay at Anie on Leba-non's Corniche. This is without doubtawooderful opportunity to isit some of the world's most

> evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploraion of the city has to be on foot. navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful.

Palmyra is a very special place - the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Bazi. The Lebanese are proudly

aware that they standat a historic crossroads. Behind them lies two decades of violence that claimed thousands of lives and brought the country's economy, its shat-tered capital, suburbs and towns, n its people, to the edge of anceverus people, while edge is anarchy. The civil war and military invasion robbed Lebanon of its prized reputation as the Middle East's

So now, at long last, it is again possible to visit this most important of countries which has had such a projound effect on the world's civilisations. Its

market place and the quintessential travel destina

deal situation at the crossroads of the three continents. Africa, Europe and Asia, and its temperate climate have attracted eminent figures from history - Ramesses II, Sargon, Darius, Alexander, the Caesars, Helagu Khan, Saladin, Tamburlaine and Napoleon. Most have left their imprint, especially at the historical sites of Byblos and Baalbeck.

ltionary Day 1 Depart by Monarch Airways special flight from London Gatwick to Correscus, Transfertothe Al-Paradis Hotel

and stay for two nights.

Day 2 Visit, the Orrayyad Mosque, Saladin's Tomband Old City, the Church of Ananaisat the end of a Street Called Straight, Walk through the tortunusalleys of the Old City. See the chapel commen rating the lowering down of St. Paul from a window.

Day 3 Depart for Palmyra. In Palmyra we will visit the Temple of Baal, the colormaded streets.

to Homs for the might. Day 4 Drive to Crac des Chevaliers, the resicrusader knights Hospitaler. Cross the border into Lebanon via Tripoli to Anse and the travel to the Cedars'. At Mt Makhmal visit the Kadisha

theatre, monumental archesand tornins. Continue

visiting Damascus, Palmyra, Crac des Chevaliers, the Cedars, Tripoli, Byblos, Beirut, Zhale and Baalbeck

Marina del Sol Hotel which will be our tasse for the next

two nights. Located some 35 miles north of Beirut in the

fashionable coastal resort of Anfe, the hotel's features

include rooms with ensuite facilities, har/restaurant

citadel, the monumental gateway, the inner courtyard of the Castle of St Giles built by the Franks, and also see

the Mosque of Abdel Washed constructed in a delicate

Moorish style. Also visit the Khanal-Khaiyature dating

from the Byzantine period. Travelling through the Kadisha Valley arrive at Becharren and from there

Day 5 Follow the coast road to Tripoli and visit the

and swimming pool.

September 2, 9, 16. September 23, 30... October 7, 14,21,28 November 4.11.18.25 ...

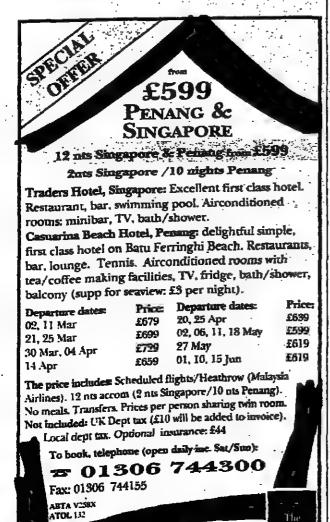
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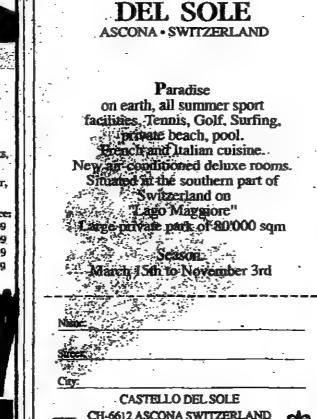
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GREECE: Matthew Bond takes his choice between solitude and socialising in the northern Sporades...

Blessed by the god of holidays

a jellyfish. On day two I trod on a sea urchin. On day three ... It was time to strike a deal with whichever Greek god it is that protects Alonnisos, the least known and least developed of the northern Sporades. "Enough, enough," I cried: "You start looking after me properly and I promise to write only nice things about your island." was in no position to negotiate. I was treading the crystal clear waters of the Aegean, some 15m off the beautiful beach of Megalo Mourtia, staring desperately into the blue, blue depths which had just claimed my wedding ring.

One moment of energetic, showing-off front crawl it was there, the next — gone. Miserably I turned towards the beach — not waving, nor indeed drowning, but certainly. heading towards divorce.

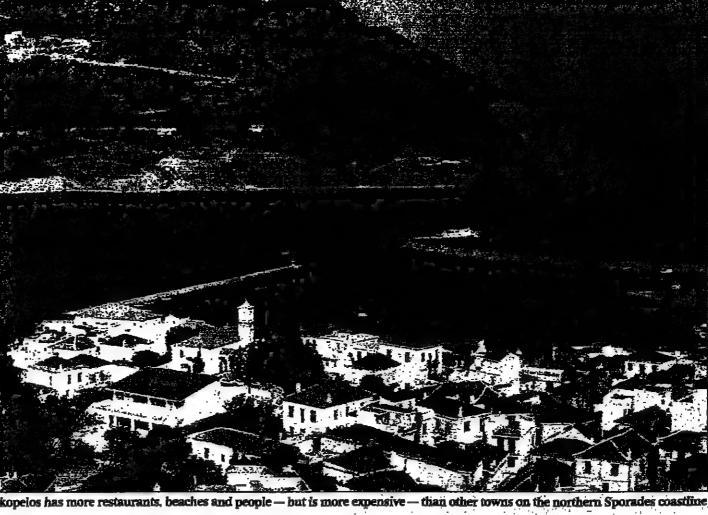
But fair's fair, the old god made good. Less than five minutes later a passing Norwegian snorkeller suraced, spluttering the Norwegian for "is this it?"

And from that moment on. Alonnisos and I got on ... well, swimmingly is not the right word. but certainly very well. For it, too. has known serial misfortune. In 1950 its vines were devastated by disease: in 1965 its main village was destroyed by an earthquake and in recent years large tracts of its xquisite pine forests have been laid waste by fire. But houses can be rebuilt, mainland wines bought in and enough trees survive to make Alonnisos a relaxing stop-off point on a tour of the sometimes-



For the first week we stayed in a hillside villa on the outskirts of Old Alonnisos, with spectacular 180egree views towards the uninhabited island of Peristera in one direction and the distant, purple hills of Evvia in the other. And yes, old Alonnisos is the town that was destroyed by the earthquake.

One man's disaster is another man's opportunity and while the original inhabitants were quickly rehoused in the island's main port. Patitiri, the shells of their oncebeautiful houses in old Alonnisos were snapped up by bargainseeking foreigners. And beautiful many of them are once again, although now they are owned by English. Germans, Italians and even the odd American. The beautifying process, by the way, contin-ues apace and during the day the air can echo to the sound of electric saws and power drills. It's not a



Skopelos has more restaurants, beaches and people - but is more expensive - than other towns on the northern Sporades coastline

problem, you just go the beach. The end results of all this relatively recent toil can come as a pleasant surprise to those whose idea of an island holiday home is simply white-washed walls and a stone floor. Ours, for instance, kept with tradition outside but inside the boundary wall boasted four glorious sun terraces and a wellequipped kitchen that made eating in a real possibility. When you're facing the third chicken souvlaki in as many days, that can be a comforting thought.

Not to be outdone by the incorners, the local authority has also embarked on a programme of

nace. In the week we were resident about half the island's dirt roads were tarred for the first time. Such progress is probably anathema to those who have been driven to Alonnisos — first from Skiathos and then from neighbouring Skopelos — by the search for peace and quiet. But it makes life a lot easier for the casual visitor.

he tracks that descend from the main road running along the island's mountainous spine are very steep in places and not ideally suited to mopeds. Although you can reach most of the beaches by calque

TRAVEL TIPS AROUND EUROPE

really does require a car. Ours came with the villa and allowed us to explore several of the beaches along the island's eastern coastline. Although they don't quite measure up to Skopelos and Skiathos (you don't really find sand on Alonnisos) the water is very clean and there are far fewer people about. But again the pace of change means you should be prepared for sur-prises. Driving north to Ayos Dimitrios, in search of what the latest edition of the Rough Guide described as "real solitude", we found a strip of perfect white shingle, a line of perfectly arranged

beach umbrellas and a bar playing

solitude. In search of more of the same we spent our second week on; Skopelos, less than an hour away by Flying Dolphin hydrofoil. The change was instantly apparent more restaurants, more beaches and a lot more people. It took getting used to. As did some of the prices - the early evening views from the fishing village of Agnodas are wonderful but it is the moment you work out that the fish you have ust ordered has cost £30 that lingers in the memory.

- much more fun than

However, there are ways of escaping the crowds. First, you can rent one of the growing number of superior villas, which give you the

Getting there

☐ The author was a guest of the Greek Islands Club (01932 220477). On Alounisos he stayed at Evros House, which sleeps up to four but for two people costs from £905 per perso a week in low season to £1.224 n high season, including flights transfers, maid service and car hire. On Skopelos he stayed at sleep up to six but for two people costs from £943 per person per week in low season to £1,348 m high scason. Greek Islands Club's spring villas and hotels priced from

opportunity to create your own private enclave. Ours - an exquisite building with a high-ceilinged main room resembling an artist's studio - was in the middle of its own clive grove, an oasis of tranquility just five minutes moped ride from Skopelos Town. A tranquil oasis that is, as long as you didn't mind the sound of dogs. cockerels and an unhappy mule.

£1,000 per person per week.

An alternative route to peace and quiet is to hire a boat at Panormos and motor slowly northwards along the coastline. Just past the vast pebble beach of Milia, you reach Hovolo, where a succession of inlets not accessible by land just about guarantees you a private beach. The only problem is that when you find paradise, you want to stay there. So remember to take a picnic. We didn't, so headed north o Louiraki and lunch.

The island's well-maintained road network offers another means of escape, particularly if you don't mind bumping the last couple of miles to the wilder, rockier north-east coast. But there is escape and escape and, when the street theatre of the harbour-side promenade got. too much, we headed up the steep. narrow streets towards the Castro. a ruined Venetian fortress. History was not our aim. Happiness, we had discovered, was a calé called Vranos, a barman who knew his cocktails and a waiter who liked modern jazz. And probably the best







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PRINCESS CRUISES

☐ For those embarking on an inter-rail adventure, the revised 1996 Europe by Train book by Katie Wood and George McDonald (HarperCollins, £9.99) is essential. Written for travellers on a tight budget, the guide gives comprehensive information on all aspects of rail travel, accommodation in chosen places, sight-seeing and nightlife, details of Channel Tunnel options and up-to-date facts about Eastern Europe.

☐ Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355) is offering river cruises along the Danube during the Austro-Hungarian Music Festival, August 10-17. Taking in ten concerts, the cruise starts at Passau in Germany and visits Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava, returning via Melk and Linz in Austria. The cost is from £1.750 per person, based on two sharing, including return flights from Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Heathrow to Munich, seven-nights' full-board accommodation on the MS Rousse, all

☐ Live! in Europe (01709 839839) is offering rock concert packages. For example, a four-day break to Paris to see Tina. Turner at the Bercy Omnisports Arena on May 3 costs £149 per person, including two nights at a 3 or 4-star hotel, with breakfast. Departs May 2, travelling via Le Shuttle.

excursions, concerts, lectures and guides.

☐ Headwater Holidays (01606 48699) has an end-of-season family ski break at the Venabu Hotel in Gudsbrandsdalen, Norway. Departing March 30, the price of £786 per adult, and £458 per child (aged four-II), includes return flights from Heathrow to Oslo, seven nights full-board accommodation, skis, boots and ski pass.

Treat your loved one to a Valentine's break at the first-class Château de Fère in the Champagne region of France. Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) offers the break at £140 per person for overnight accommodation, a gournet meal with a bottle of champagne, breakfast, and return Dover-Calais ferry crossing. Departs February 14.

☐ Elysian Holidays (01797 225482) has a self-contained 19thcentury house on the Greek island of Syros, 20 minutes flying time from Athens. For example, staying at Talanta, which sleeps eight, during the Greek Easter holidays (April 14-15) costs £1,000 per week for the house (flights not included), including housekeeper and linen. Beaches and watersports nearby. Available from April 6.

☐ A three-night break in Athens staying at the 3-star Philippos Hotel with Argo Holidays (0171-331 7070) costs £245 per person, including B&B and return flights from Heathrow. Departs February 16.

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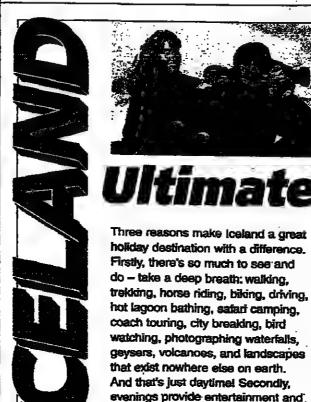
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TRAVEL

.. and once there, Ginny Dougary sees her spouse in a pleasing new light; plus where to find fine food

How my husband became a Euro-hero

been anticipating the short, sharp thrill of romance, not the bug-eyed hand of a flight to New York. It had been more than a year since my husband and I last

had a break from the ily life. A cupidinous recharge was long overdue. For months we had been looking forward to our midweek break in Paris, now only three hours away from London by Eurostar. In Half an hour out of Water-

loo our zippy, new, high-speed train stopped in its tracks. As the minutes, and then the hours creaked by, it became increasingly clear that the minor technical hitch was a major electrical blow-out: we seemed destined to spend our romantic break in south Croydon. Our dinner could not be served because there was no power to heat it. The dinky pink pseudo-Deco lamps were the first to go, followed by the neon strip above them, then the emergency lights dimmed and faded, one by one, until we were plunged into darkness:

As the next train for Paris whizzed by, ours limped back to London past those names which resonate with romance: Bromley South, Beckenham Junction, Penge East and Brixton. At ten o'clock, we drew into Waterloo, It had taken us four hours to get back to where we had started.

When we finally arrived in Paris, it was three in the morning. As we filed down to the taxi rank, it was painfully evident that the Gallic cabbies had not been warned about our late arrival. There was not a taxi in sight. My husband took charge, leading the troops into the deserted streets around the Gare du Nord. Had he not done so, we might have stood there, dazed and befuddled, until dawn My

hubby, the Euro-hero. This, at least, was good for romance. The Hotel de Vigny, whose staff greeted us sympathetically at 4am, proved equally restorative, and after six hours' sleep, the world seemed a much better place.

ou can keep Paris in the springtime. As far as I am concerned, autumn is the busi-. ness. We hit the Bois de Boulogne, where lovers walk as the russet leaves tumble out of the sky. Across the Champs-Elysées and a promenade down the grand Avenue Foch. where the poorest countries boast the most opulent, honeycoloured embassies, and everywhere there is something to please the eye. The scalloped roads, the trees sprouting out of their filigree doilies, the

wrought-iron fences.
The park itself was in full autumnal bloom. The smokeygreen depths of the lake emerging from the amber foliage; the purple leaved trees with their bright orange berries like Christmas lights. A handsome man rowing past gave a wicked smile. All of which is rather good for the

senses, if not the soul. Best of all was lunch. It is a tremendous feeling to stumble on somewhere uniquely Parisian without the aid of a guide book. This was an unpromising kiosk with an extraordinary clientele of dog owners. At one table there were leather-jacketed bikers. Their neighbours were a pair of genteel and exquisitely dressed elderly ladies. There was a family group of moth-



Keep Paris in the springtime: autumn is the business

plump

pillows

in the

illustrious authors, all seduc-

tively conspire to make one

langorous well-being was not

this sense of

asked the charm-

ing hotel manager

to suggest a "hot"

new, restaurant for

dinner. She chose

Champs-Elysées; a

hig hit apparently with the fashion

crowd. You might

an inherently dubi-

ous recommenda-

tion for a couple

who like to est.

And you would be

right. But it was

ate and we were

still recovering

from Eurostar, so

off we went for our

It is a pretty restaurant.

Rather too pretty. Yvan is so

full of extravagantly perfumed displays of flowers and eye-

dazzling paintings of fruit and

marble busts that one's senses

are overloaded. You feel ex-

for half an hour before we

were seated, by which time the

arrived, was cold; the sauce

had congealed during the long

hiatus. The service was sloppy and imperious. Mustafa's ki-

love's victim than her victor.

won hands down.

Paris: fact file

☐ Hotel de Vigny, 9-11 rue Balzac. 75008 Paris. There are 26 rooms and 11 suites. Rates per might for a double/twin room

are Fr 2,200 (£290) to Fr 2,600 (£345). Rates per night for suite are Fr 2,600 (£345) to Fr 4,500 (£600). Breakfast is Fr 90 (£12) per person. Reservations: contact the Hotel Vigny: (00331 40750439; fax 00331 40750581) or Relais & Châteaux.

The author was a guest of Relais & Châteaux and

Before you start. We waited

hausted before you start.

would be

off the

feel mistressy and illicit.

ers, babies and grannies, all The Hôtel de Vigny, like the wearing hairbands. And a Musee Marmottan, is small in sprawling circle of low-lifers: a size and huge in its pleasures. This sort of discreet opulence is perfect for engendering the navy-blazered drunk who performed an operatic duet with Mustafa, the kiosk-owner sense of a dangerous liaison. ("Oh merde, j'ai soif" ... The antique chandeliers, the "Attends: J'arrive"), a huge man with an aubergine face, mirrors, the salle de baln in chmamon marble, the plump ranks of snowy pillows in the boudoir off the little living room lined with old books by

cowboy hat and anorale a very old man, his grizzled head swaddled in a Breton swearer and a Josephine Baker lookalike who nibbled her chicken leg with an air of detached refinement. It was a delicious but noisy experience, tucking

toes flecked with herbs, a salad and omelette, red wine served in Fants ranks of beakers, under the clear blue skies; the members of the dog club yelling at their pekes, poo-dles and labradors. On to the Em-

boudoir pire-style mansion of the Musée make one Marmottan on rue feel Louis-Bouilly, a short walk from Mustafa's klosk mistressy There is something and illicit particularly beauti ing about a small

see Rodin, the Dulwich Picture 10.30pm sitting. all gracious buildings in lovely grounds, with just enough great art to leave you feeling nourished but not overfed. At the Marmottan there is a room. full of wondrous medieval illuminations, all blues and pinks and golds worked in me-ticulous detail. And, downstairs, a collection of some of the best-known impressionist queue was snaking out of the works, including Water Lilies front door. The food, when it and, the painting which gave a name to the movement, im-

pression: Sunrise. Beautiful paintings should be enough to transport the true romantic into a state of dreamy intoxication. But my husband and I are a pair of most people's idea of a romanshameless voluptuaries. We need the real thing. We return to our bedroom for a glass of champagne and a duo of religieuses: two sumptuous

balls of coffee-iced pastry. Emerging several hours later, we were refreshed, invigorated and ready for more food.

Eurostar

There are up to 13 Eurostar trains a day between London and Paris starting at 6.19am from London and 6.37 from Paris (7.10 on Sundays). The journey takes just over three hours. The last train from Paris leaves at 20.07 and from London at 18.53 (17.53 on Sundays). Some stop at and Little. Return facts start returns are £158. The first-

bookings call (Lo-call) 0345 BBLISS or contact travel agents and some stations

where we spent the next morning tramping, was a disappointment. Too many American tourists and bolshy guards and not enough overgrown ruins. We searched, in vain, for the monuments to Héloise and Abélard (the amants célébres). The directions to the graves of Simone Signoret and Oscar Wilde had been obliterated by the tracing of millions of fingers over the years. There was a gratifyingly macabre monolith with a frieze of laughing skulls and a touching display of fresh flowers in front of Rossini's resting place. We did find ourselves in front of the tomb of James Douglas Morrison (1943-1971), which now requires the pres-ence of two fulltime guards "parce que les gens ne respecient pas". One of the tributes was a scrap of paper with the words "Hello, I Love You - A poem." I toyed with the idea of leaving my poem, Light My Fire, but thought

We had our last meal in a wonderfully old-fashioned restaurant, in what is becoming the mega-trendy new quartier of Paris. The Bastille is now being stormed by 1960s design shops and off-the-wall

Frankly, I am beginning to worry about my husband. He chose to est calves brains for lunch. And on our slow meander back to the station he was captivated by the displays of offal in the charcuteries. Will offal in the charcuteries. you look at that?" he said in front of one spectacular array of pigs' heads, "What a beauti-

ful sight."
Well, they do say Paris brings out the romantic in you.



Sur le pont Alexandre III: even Parisian bridges bring out the romantic in you

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

THE frustration of eating out in Paris is trying meals a day. Breakfast. though, is the best time to visit Les Deux Magor Café Flore, the andmark cales of St-Germain, Before tourists overcrowd the terraces, you will the find regulars, there for the pleasure of "la corbeille du houlanger".

Conveniently close to the Etoile and the Arc de Triomphe is the latest stylish adjunct to the Guy Savoy stable, Cap Vernet, at 82 aver Marceau, (47 20 20 40). The cooking is quick and precise and the bill about F/200-250 a head.

islands in the Seine, try rue St-Louis-en-l'Île, (43 staightforward and traditional, and the bill

could be less than Fr150 Monde des Chimères, at typical of old Paris. The cooking is familial but fastidious and one's bill about Fr300.

In the delightful Marais square, the Place de Vosges, La Guirlande de Julie at number 25 (48 87 94 07) has its terrace under the arcades. It has comm d'Argent (15-17, quai de la Tournelle. 43 54 23 31) which charges astronomically for its unrivalled view of Notre Dame and disher that decades. At La Guirlande the cooking is lighter, more modern and more affordable, about

For a big brasserie try Bofinger, 3-7 rue de la Bastille, (42 72 87 82), full of copper and mirrors and waiters negotiating a incredibly heavy-lader About Fr200 a head. best address is A. Lamarck, a period plece serving distinguished ng. The cost, though, is

likely to be at least

Le Café Mariy 49 26 overlooks the Louvre's can be slow. About Fr250. Even more distinguished is Les Monuments in the Trocadero (44 05 90 00). The food is tine, about Fr350

ROBIN YOUNG

a head, and the view is



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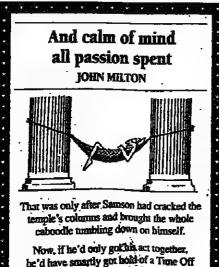
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TRAVEL

.. Neil Maclean explores the chewing-gum island of Chios; and Mike Gerrard samples Greek food



Women sit and talk outside their homes in Pyrgi, one of the mastic villages of Chios

A taste of unknown Athens

Homer's secret hideaway

the first pupil to be scolded for chewing gum in class - and I am almost completely sure of my facts here - was one of Homer's lads, sitting on the rocky outcrop above the village of Vrontados on the

The old blind poet, perched on what is now known as Homer's Seat, on hearing sounds of mastication, untered the immortal lines: "What are you chewing boy? Spit it out," which has since became a refrain of teachers throughout the ages, only recently super-seded, in the late 20th century. "What are you smoking boy? Get off the ceiling."

It is tempting to assume an island which is famous for little more than Homer and chewing gum must be a dull place but Chios hides a bright light under a modest bushel. Few tourists even know of the island's existence, although it is the fifth largest island in the Greek collection. Even some of my most enthusiastic Greekand-hopping friends failed to locate it on their usually detailed mental mans. You find it between Leshos

and Samos, so close to Turkey that the castle of Cesme can be clearly seen across the water on a sunny day. It is an affluent place, thanks to maritime money: 15 per cent of the world's commercial shipping is said to be owned by Chiot families and, until recently, they have felt little motivation to enter the tourist market. Besides, Chios has few really good beaches to attract the iourist crowds; a holiday here is more cerebral than that.

For me, the highlight of the island was a visit to the monastery of Nea Moni. Founded in 1045 and inspired

So what do you do for the

rest of the day, to pass the time between meals? See the Acrop-

olis, of course, and the Nat-

ional Archaeological Mus-

eum, and try not to miss the

The Acropolis Study Centre

has a fascinating display on

how the Parthenon was built,

including computer graphics

showing how the stone was

hauled from nearby quarries.

my favourite is the

Museum of Greek Musical Instruments, in a 19th-century

Plaka mansion. Here you can

listen to the exhibits. These

range from the urban blues of

rembetika to shepherd's pipes

and even a display on how to

make music from a combina-

tion of worry beads and a wine

glass. If you thought Greek

music was a load of bouzouki.

think again.
The Goulandris Museum of

Cycladic Art is another treat,

the central items being the

artefacts of the Cycladic civili-

Finally, go beyond the Plaka's souvenir shops into the

flea market west of Monastir-

aki Square, particularly on

Sunday mornings, when the

market extends for miles, and

the noise is enough to wake the

dead in the Kerameikos Ceme-

tery alongside. Want to buy a

religious icon, a stuffed stork.

a car engine, second-hand camera, bootleg music tapes?

Then come to Athens on a

Sunday morning. In fact, go to Athens at anytime. I love the place. So

Mike Gerrard is the author

might you.

the AA, £4.99).

sation of 3000-2000 BC.

mong the many small-

er museums of Athens,

old classical site of Agora.

a miraculous icon on the site. it is an atmospheric place, pungent with incense, and has the best views of the island. A bearded priest ushered me through an entrance way covered in ancient, smudged frescoes to another chamber, this time alive with an astonishing array of mosaics, cele-

brated for the vibrancy of their colours. Sombre-looking saints glared at me from the ceiling. During the midnight masses," said the priest, "these faces shimmering in the candle light seem to come alive." In the katholikon next door a clock struck eight — six

hours adrift - stuck on ancient Byzantine time. The priest paused to show me a cupboard full of human skulls. a reminder of the infamous Turkish massacre of 1822. The mastic-producing villages in the south of Chios.

collectively known as the Masticora, were treated lessharshly by the Turks at that time, thanks to their valuable crop. It seems the women in the sultan's harem were particularly fond of their chewing

For some reason, Chios is one of the very few places in the world where trees produce mastic. Some people say it is because of a combination of the island's volcanic terrain, soil and climate; villagers believe it is thanks to the tears of Saint Issidor, murdered in AD 250 by the Romans for embracing Christianity.

The most interesting of the Masticora is the village of Mesta, a classic example of fortified architecture with all the houses facing inwards, inter-connected by arches from roof to roof, assisting the villagers to flee attacking pirates - and these days, I was told, useful for young lovers hiding from parents.

çade I found the little vaulted church of Taxiarchis and, at the far end, a massive reredos carved in the 12th century from a single chestnut tree, featuring delicately traced scenes from the old and new testaments, an intricate braille Bible, each little section worth

a thousand words. The man who carved that drank a bottle of ouzo every day to keep him in good humour," the old caretaker told me.

Chios has had more than its fair share of invaders over the centuries including the Genoese, who ruled the island for 500 or so years from the 14th century, and who, more than anyone, exploited the mastic

Chios fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Greek Islands Club, 66 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KTI2 18U (01932 220477) and stayed at the Villa Argentikon, featured by the club. Prices range from £893 for a week in May to £1,180 a week in August. The prices are per person for four people sharing a villa, and include return flights from Heathrow to Athens, domestic flights to Chios and breakfast.

plained of high prices when he arrived in 1491 to pick up crew. maps and mastic trees to planshould he reach India. The explorer staved in the Villa Homerica in the Campos area. a fertile valley close to Chora. the capital, which became home to the ruling Genoese elite and wealthy Chiots.

Many of the old villas still stand behind high, honey coloured stone walls, includ ing the Villa Argentikon. It is run as a sort of house party by the current marchese, a soft spoken aristocrat from one o the old ruling Genoese families.

There are four villas within the two and a half acres of flower beds, orchards, hert gardens and secluded corners At dinner you are served a Homeric feast by smart white-gloved waiters at a candlelit table covered in rose: and set with the family silve: under a spreading plane tree.

It seems very far away from most people's idea of a Greel island holiday; but then fev people even know Chios is a

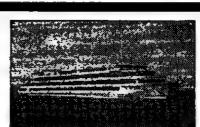
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Tartar Empire which fell to Ivan the

calls into little known cities, towns and rillages which will offer an insight into life in this vast region of Russia.

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THE MINERARY

DAY I London (Heathrow) - Moscow Embark issel which will moor overnight.

DAY 2 Moscow Morning city excursion. Sall in DAY 3 Uglich Founded in 1148 this Golden

Ring city offers a treasure trove of historic sites. Visit the Kremlin, the cathedral and

DAY 4 Kostroma Home to the noble families Romanov was elected Tear. See wonderful 18th and 19th century architecture including the Ipatyevsky Monastery.

DAY 5 Nizhni Novgorod Formerly known as Gorld, the city was closed to foreigners until 1990. Founded in 1221 it became famous as an important trading post attracting cara-from Siberia and the Orient. Visit the

DAY 6 Crubung the Welge

DAY 7 Samara. We will spend the afternoon in this important river trading city. Shoil along the river promenades and time permitting visit Stalin's secret bunker, built in 1942 as a precaution in case he had to flee from Moscow

DAY & Cruising the Volgo

DAY 9 Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) Explore this strategically placed city at the confluence of the Volga and Don rivers. Visit Marnei Hill, site of the most ferocious fighting during the Winter of 1942 which resulted in over 200,000 deaths. See the 170ft statue of Mother Russia and the memorial - a most

moving experience. DAY 10 Cruising the Volga DAY 11 Astrakhan Located 70 feet below

sea level on a huge island in the Volga Delta. This is a fescinating city which is divided by the Kutum River and linked by more than 30 bridges. The city's old bridge with dozens of arches, is over two miles long, wan the Terrible conquered the city in 1556 and annexed it DAY 12 Cruising the Volga

DAY 13 Divushkin Island A morning to walk and relax in peaceful setting. DAY 14 Secretor Doe of the oldest cities unthe Volga, Saratov is surrounded by mountain

and is best known as the home of the writer and politician, Charyshevsky and the world's first cosmonaut - Yuri Gargarin.

DAY 15 Cruising the Volga DAY 16 Symbirsk Formerly known as Ulyanovsk, this was the birthplace and boyhood home of Lenin. A Soviet shrine for

national osyche. DAY 17 Kazen Haif Russian, half Yartar this thriving port is a unique blend of Christian and Moslem cultures. Conquered by the ever capital of the Tartar republic was founded in the 13th century by the Mone Lenin studied here and the State Museum offers a marvellous insight into the history of

the Tartars. DAY 18 Kozmodemyanek-Yurino Here in this lovely town founded by Ivan the Terrible

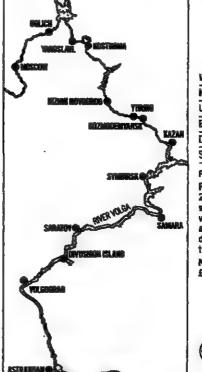
we hope to arrange an outdoor concert of Mari folk music. This is the capital of the Mari Autonomous Republic, the Mari are ethnically related to the Fires. In the afternoon we will call into the delightful village of Yurso, a well preserved merchant village of the 19th over 70 years, it is surprising to see how prominent a place Lenin still occupies in the century which is surrounded by forest. DAY 19 Yaroslavi Founded in 1010 this is one of the foremost cities of the Golden Ring.

in the 17th century it established itself as a some of the richest families, resulting in some

DAY 20 Cruising the Volga

DAY 23 Moscow Vest the Kremlin and the Armoury. Afternoon free. Evening visit to

DAY 22 Moscow-London Afternoon flight to London (Heathrow).



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ou'll hate Athens. Lots

of people say so, and they all give the same

easons: smog, traffic, crowds

and few attractions beyond the

obvious ones. Worst of all, it is

said, you can't get a decent

meal there, particularly in the

tourist rip-off area known as

the Plaka. Here, among the many restaurants, there is only one safe place to eat, they

assure you. The trouble is,

they all recommend some-

First, food. In the past

couple of years I've spent several weeks in Athens, and

eaten well for little more than

the price of a visit to a burger

bar in Britain. Take Socrates

Prison, for example, where I

would gladly be imprisoned

for a week in order to eat my

way through the menu and sip

the draught Guinness. Only a

marble's throw from the

Acropolis, the inside has a cosy, bar-like atmosphere, with pre-Raphaelite prints on

the walls. Outside, there is an

attractive walled garden. For

£4 I had a delicious beef roll

stuffed with parsley, green

pepper and aubergine, and, afterwards (for £1.50) a oven-baked apple bursting with raisins, sultanas and walnuts.

The Salamandra has only

Greek menus, so take your

phrase book or take a chance

and drowning in cream.

where different



on specials, which include

saganaka (fried cheese) and

spetsofai (a spicy sausage and

pepper stew from the Pelion

peninsula). And, if you think

Greek salad means only one

thing, how about one of its

In the Plaka, there are any

number of good eating places,

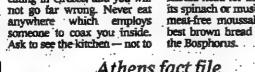
as well as a few of the fast-

turnover, poor-quality kind.

Follow a few simple rules when

eating in Greece, and you will

creamy Roquefort salads?





out the chef. If he looks as if he

has just escaped from prison.

with the blood of his crimes

still on his apron, and he has a cigarette dangling from his lips, you're safe. The food will

For Plaka atmosphere, eat

in one of the three basement

ravernas along Kidhathineon.

To eat outdoors, go to Xynos or O Platanos. Vegetarians

should head for the Eden and

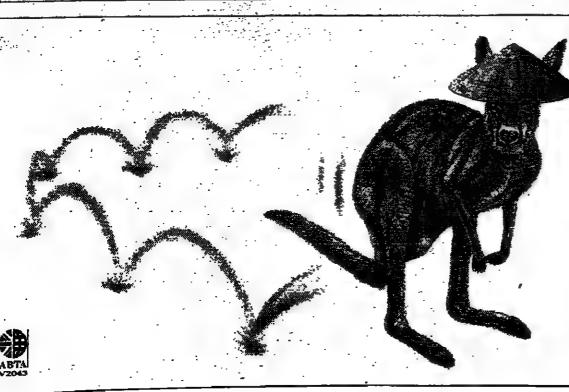
its spinach or mushroom pies.

meat-free moussaka and the

best brown bread this side of

probably be excellent.

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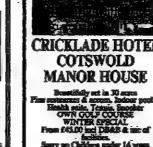
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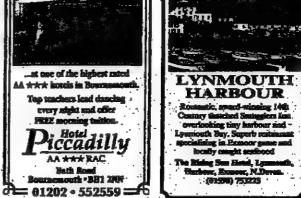
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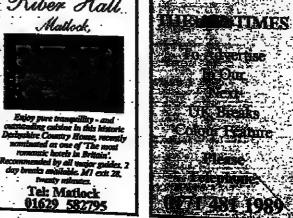


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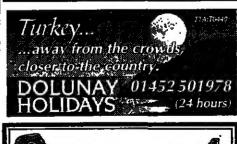
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CHESS by Raymond Keene

DERN chess contains a bloodty element which was not ent in earlier decades of this iry. The reason is the prevaof the Sicilian Defence as an lote to I e4. Practitioners of the ian rely on long-term endgame intages, such as control of the open c-file and the more ble pawn centre, but they must the gauntlet first of a savage te middlegame. More often not, the black king is gunned in the centre even before it les, while, as the following

led on the kingside. White: E. Schiller Black: T. Wolski San Mateo, 1995 Sicilian Defence

Nc3 d4 Bc4 Bg5

et line of Schiller's. Amazingly, fairly ordinary position is not

. Be7 9 63 0-0. Avoiding the cal minefield of 9... Nxe4 10 7 Nxc3 11 Bxd8 Nxd1 12 Bb6, re Black was doubtless con-ed that his errant knight would escape unscathed. The text sets scene for slashing attacks on osite wings.

Na5 b5 Be7

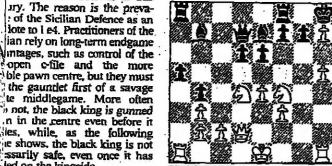
:k is overly concerned to retain bishop pair, but he does so at expense of time. 14 . . . Bxd4 uld be considered as an

i go. A vigorous pawn sacrifice 1 the plan of bludgeoning his through after 15 ... hxg6 l6 h5 17 ho. Black prefers not to take . bait.

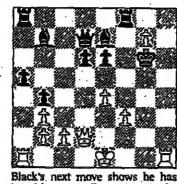
5 . . Nxb3 16 gxh7+ Kh8. sting that the pawn on h? will eld his king. In this hope Black enly partially justified.

ending to sacrifice his d4-knight eo, which 20 . . . e5 would not Black's next move is de-

signed to prevent this, but he is in for a shock. 20 ... Qd7.



Finally wrenching open the h-file Kugo. There is nothing better. 24 hzg7.



lost his nerve. Even though the board is in flames, Black could still make a draw with 24 . . . Kxg7 25 Qh6+ Kf7 26 Qh5+ Kf6 27 Rgi Rg8 28 Qh0+ Ke5 29 Qh2+ Kd4 30 Qf2+ Ke5 31 Qh2+ Kf6 32 Qh6+, since White, two pieces down, cannot improve on perpetual check.

24 ... Bg5 25 Rg1 Qb5 26 garteQ Rate 27 14 White regains all of his sacrificed

material with interest and wraps up the technical phase efficiently. 27 ... K17 28 Rxg5 Qb5
29 0-0-0 8xs4 30 Qxo6 Qxo6
31 Rxd6 Ro8 32 Rd2 8t5
33 Rxd5+ 8xd5 34 Rd5 K8
35 Rxc5 Re8 36 Re6+ K17
37 Rc6 Re4 32 Rc4 Re1+
39 Kd2 Rb1 40 Rxd4 Rxd2
41 Kc1 Rs2 42 Rs4

Black resigns.

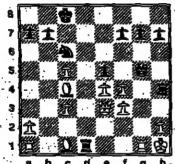
WINNING MOVE 35 ...

is position is from the game ldivia - Cappello, Italy 1995, n you spot Black's key move uch brought his kingside initiae to a brilliant and successful nclusion? Black to move.

nd your answers on a postcard The Times, I Pennington Street, ondon El 9XN. The first three rrect answers drawn on Thursly will win a British Chess agazine publication. The an-Aturday.

ust week's solution: 1 Be8

Last week's winners: I Bain, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire: N Balderson, Amersham, Bucks: R M Hill, Morpeth, Northumberland.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon. from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (95), Weekend Games Page, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 14.





'When it comes to housework, my husband says I'm an absolute Trojan

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Maurice Taylor, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAMEL a. A lost Semitic language b. An African croft

NANCY DAWSON a. An effeminate dance b. A sudden storm c. An insincere excuse

MICROBUS a. A small bus b. A man like a microbe

c. A flatterer KYU a. Dried mushroom

b. Bad at Judo

c. Green-blue

175 BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

TERENCE REESE, who died two weeks ago aged 82, was a great player and writer, the best this country has produced. He was in British teams that won four European championships, and in the only British team to win a world championship (in 1955). At that time many experts rated him the best player in the world.

He was also involved in the most widely publicised incident the game has seen: it was front-page news worldwide. In the 1965 World championship in Buenos Aires, he and Boris Schapiro were found guilty of cheating by the World Bridge Federation. The British Bridge League carried out its own inquiry and found them not guilty but Reese and Schapiro did not play together again.

For 60 years Reese was one of the most prolific bridge writers, with more than 80 books to his name. He is certainly one of the three alltime best authors (and was voted so at the 1994 Pairs Olympiad, along with Victor Mollo and Hugh Kelsey), and I rate him the finest. His book on the Buenos Aires affair (Story of an Accusation) is riveting, full of lucid analysis of the hands and piercing insights into the personalities involved.

As doyen of the bridge writers, he had the status to write uncomplimentary book reviews, and some were famously cutting. A few examples: of a beginner's book which took a page to describe the play of AQJx opposite Kx: "Well, that's something learned"; the dismissal of one of Victor Mollo's books in one sentence: "At least there are no animals in it"; and of a book called Twelve Lessons on Bridge, he said:

The author should hasten to take them." But a favourable review was the lead quote in any publisher's advertisements.

All the obituaries of Reese men-tioned his "acid wir". Undoubtedly he could be rude. While playing at Crockfords, the home of rubber bridge in London for many years. Terence partnered a newcomer who made an elementary mistake. While dealing the next hand the newcomer, by now rather nervous, turned over a card and had to redeal. Terence remarked to one of his opponents: "The so-and-so can't even deal properly." Except that he didn't say "so-and-so". He was fluent in French, and

often used French phrases in daily conversation: in his wonderfully funny letters to Boris he always addressed Boris as "cher collegue". in return for board and lodging at a tournament in Deauville, he and I played in an exhibition event. Terence's only instructions to me were: "Il faut éviter le cuiller de bois." ("we must avoid the wooden spoon"). You might think from some of these stories that he was a disagreeable person. Not so. He had friends of all ages and from many countries. I first got to know him in the late 1960s, and those of my generation loved his company. Though he was 25 years older than us, he was still one of the boys. His sharp remarks were just part of the general good-humoured exchanges, and even the targets

enjoyed them.

Where does he stand in the game? For his overall contribution to the game, I place him second only to Ely Culbertson. I shall miss

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

WHEN a tortoise flips over onto its back it is pretty helpless - and a similar fate could be your downfall behind the controls of a tank in Assault Rigs. This is an abstract game for the PlayStation, set in a vivid cubist world.

Two hazards face you in your quest to find a way through the maze of arenas, collecting powerups and gems. The first is the risk of overturning your bulky tank by driving over landmines or even by approaching ramps from the wrong angles, the other is being blown up by the many threatening enemy craft which are always on The game features a choice of

three tanks, and special weapons can be added to your arsenal along the way, including bounce ammunition, shatter shells and heat-seeking missiles. Assault Rigs s a game for the zap-happy player looking for a highly destructive runaround fix. The plot, such as it is, waffles about the tank - or "rig" action being part of a furious futuristic sport, but Rollerball this ain L

The rooms and ramps are depicted in graphics generated with vibrantly coloured straight lines and are not terribly clear. Still, making up for this is a captivating music score often leaning heavily on Deep Forest's great chanting-pygmy style.
Military manocuvres of

another kind come under scrutiny in Napoleon -Europe and the Empire from infogrames. This is a comprehensive study of the great reformist conqueror, and it is packed with a mountain of related facts, illustrations and a superb collection of many beautiful paintings commissioned to glorify the diminutive dictator, which he invariably bankrolled

himself. Reports and animations cover all aspects of Napoleon's rises and falls, including detailed coverage of every major battle he ever fought. The title explodes with detail which even Kitty Kelly would be hard-pressed to match. "Intimate moments were rare.

and there was hardly time for relaxation," we learn of daily life for Napoleon and Josephine, just after he had crowned himself

by Tim Wapshott



Cyberspace 21 prize: NEC's 4x4c CD-Rom drive

Emperor in 1804. "Their day began stant Wairy, the first valet de chambre, entered the Emperor's bedroom wearing a French-style, green broadcloth coat with cuffs and colour embroidered in gold, a white kerseymere vest, black breeches and silk stocking."

Napoleon changed the face of Europe with lightning speed, in his

wake bringing swinging and lasting reforms to promote the growth of liberalism, including a decent education for all.

Such revolutionary ideas never reached British soil because, as much as he eyed the country enviously and dubbed us a "nation of shookeepers". we were the sworn enemy which eventually brought about his downfall, thanks in no small measure to one Horatio Nelson, who was born in Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk. The visuals of

Napoleon ~ Europe and the Empire are solid and well composed. game's downside is that

occasionally the audio effects seem to have been skimped on, but not enough significantly to reduce the title's lasting appeal.

Nelson and his Navy is another

title in Anglia's multimedia range. This receives a much less complex treatment, which makes it more suitable for younger children. It offers you the chance to sail with Horatio to several battles, includ-

tour a model of the Victory. Finally, a reminder that our competition, Cyberspace Twenty-One, is offering five readers the opportunity to win an NEC 4x4c multispin CD-Rom jukebox. This is

ing the fatal Trafalgar, as well as

a sleek quad-speed drive, which is simple to install and loads up to four disks at a time. To enter Cyberspace Twenty-One you are asked to invent a

game. The idea can be as outland-ish as you like so long as it is exceedingly playable. The competition is open to all ages and the judges will favour originality. Entries must be legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please include your name, age, address and home telephone

number, and clearly mark the envelope Cyberspace Twenty-One. Computer Games and Pastimes. Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The closing date for the competition is midnight on Tuesday February 20.

I used to say of him [Napoleon] that his presence on the field made the difference of 40,000 men." The Duke of Wellington (1831).

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

AN appropriate quotation (in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations 4th Edn) followed by its author appears in the first, fifth, eighth and twelfth columns. One answer is not given explicitly in Chambers (1993) but may be inferred.

Priest having left the cloth (5)

Flat in which pets go out to exercise (6) Storm about princess acting lit up (7) Like the Scots Greys, extremely lucky with artillery (5)

10 Old party fighter (9) 12 Bird suitable for great occasion — hot! (5) 13 Notice sun goes round always once

every 24-hours (5) 14 Unter-den-Linden, perhaps is grand in

style (7) 15 Scots busy catching fish in casting net (6)

16 Waste is rubbish (5) 17 What's in a name ... put over with

gravity (5) 19 Did Judge include note in documentary evidence? (6)

20 Lot more quivery? (7)

21 Bother for local reporting some bad

spirit (5) Chinese can be thought surly in

conversation (5)

check? (9) I sift restricted articles (5)

Edge - Is it reversed with this on top of

27 Hamper bay, perhaps, inside part of harness (7)

Neighbours get work in market-towns

29 African despot imprisoning govern-

ment (5) DOWN

2 Start clapping . . . that's not approved for

praise (4) Dark distress for my heart (5)

Get trapped in emergency stairway (6) Suspicion about shabby garment's condition: rank! (6) Rampant lie will be punished here! (10)

It increases current homework when master's back before the end (6) Man ordered to cobble? (10)

A knight raised to one of the noblity (6) Pet fish kept by German (6)

Had rope with noose put up for hanging (6)

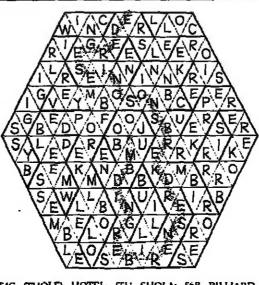
What characterises type of energy with few calories? (5) 24 Cut down bitter tree (4)

Solution to No 3341: The Hunting of the Quark by Blank

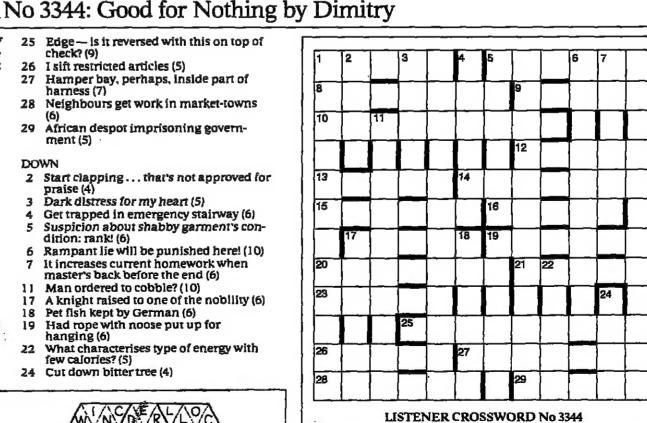
The puzzle refers to The Hunting of the Snark by Lewis Carroll. The B answers are the names of the hunters, who all began with the letter B. The hunt is symbolised by a maze: in threading that, the prudent solver will unwind behind him a clew (clue²) leading from the entrance to the centre, where he will meet, not a common snark, but the dreaded BOOJUM.

Solutions are as follows (C and S clue answers in brackets):

IT WHIRLIGIG; ID WHITESEAM; 2D INGRAIN; 2S (CHIN) INCH; 3S (ACED) CADE; 4D DETENTIONS; 5D OCTROIS; 6C (CAROLLED) COLLARED; 7S (ITER) RITE; 8S GREET) EGRET; 9S (EASEL) EASLE; 10D ROISTERER; 11S (ARES) RASE; 12C (INANE) ANNIE: 12S (NINA) NAIN; 13U ANNALS; 14D REAP; 14U RAKEHELL; 15U VAGI; 16B BONNETS; 16S (BOONS) BOSON; 17B BANKER; 18S (PEACHER) CHEAPER; 19D GABLE; 20B BEAVER; 21C (BADGES) DEBAGS; 21D DADA; 22D PONTENDING; 22U PAYER; 23B OF; 24D JUTE; 25B BUTCHER; 25S (TUBE) BUTE; 26S (TERRAS) RASTER: 27C (SLAYED) DELAYS: 28C (TARED) TREAD: 25U TROPHY: 29B BOOTS: 29° BOOJUM; 30U RAKE; 31U KAIS: 32U ABYSS; 33D ASSEMBLE: 34B MAKER: 34U METE: 35C (MAKES) KAMES: 36S (DAMN) MARCE: 340 MEIE: 350 (MARCE) RAMES: 351 MARCES (MARCES) RAMES: 351 MERCE: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 353 MARCES: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 353 MARCES: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 353 MARCES: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 353 MARCES: 352 (MARCES) RAMES: 352



S4C (THOLE) HOTEL; S5U SHOLA; 56B BILLIARD-MARKER; 57C (BIRSE) RIBES; 58U STENT; 59C (TERSE)



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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3344, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 22.

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Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 140 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject scriously studied in the English-speaking world.

No 701 23 Bring up (from bottom); sprinkle with sugar (6)

DOWN

dance (7)

7 in glasses (12)

17 Petrarch's love (5)

13 Forced (upon one) (7)

15 Decent; having convulsions

2. Clear (humber) (4,3); atten-

3 Unimportant; undernand-

ACROSS Plays for time; theatre seals

5 Note (to file, colleague) (4) 8 Haul: a bore (4) 10 Flattery (4.4)

14 Jug (of wine) (6) 16 Spin over: egg-nog (4) 18 Assess (8)

(1) Shapeless little mass (4) ing (5) 4 Error in writing (4,2,3,3) 12 Intolerant, precise (6) 5 Scarf (7) 6 - Gordsy: proverb (5)

20 In which things are pithily put (8) 21 Requisition note; young girl

/ 22 (Druidic) poet (4)

19 Relative; pawnbroker (5) SOLUTION TO NO 700
ACROSS: 6 Galilee 7 Blend 9 Venue 10 Hit list-11 Coup de grâce 14 Ultramarine 17 Arrears 19 Gavel 21 Ticks 22 Iron age

DOWN: 1 Glen 2 Alleluia 3 Method 4 Abut 5 Delicate 6 Give

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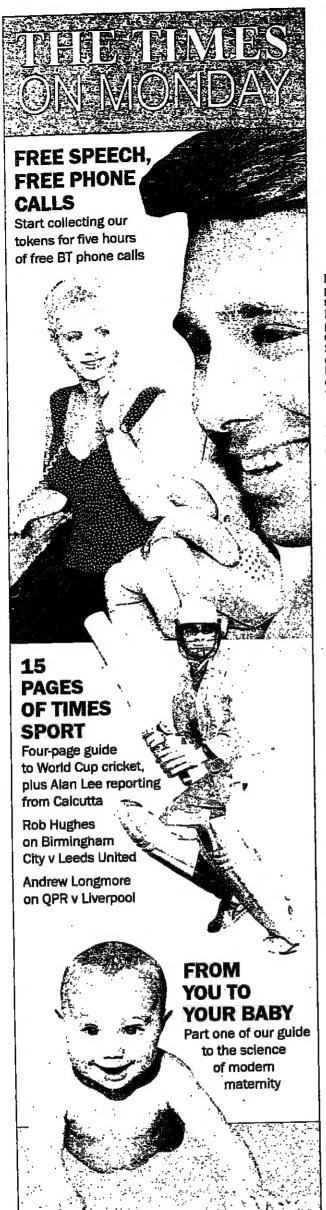
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Howard set to reject Hindley transfer

By RICHARD FORD AND KATE ALDERSON

MICHAEL HOWARD is expected to reject a Parole Board recommendation that Myra Hindley be moved to an open prison and given the hope of ventual freedom. The Home Secretary will give his verdict on the proposal that Hindley be transferred to easier jail conditions within the next few

Hindley, 54, yesterday refused to comment on the proposed move, disclosed in The Times, during a telephone conversation from Durham Prison with a member of her legal team. She is understood to want a move to the more relaxed regime offered by the three open jails for women in England and Wales and hopes for her freedom.

But she accepts the practical and political difficulties involved in a move to a prison without perimeter fences.

Mr Howard, visiting Birmingham, said no decision had yet been made on the recommendation, which was made after a review of her case

last month. The Home Secretary is unlikely to risk the public outcry that moving Hindley to an open jail would cause. He is also likely to take into account the fears for her safety if she were sent to a prison where it would be easy for members of the public to gain access. One



Howard: taking wider

prison source said: "Ironically, Hindley probably needs protection from the public rather than the other way

Mr Howard is under no obligation to accept the Parole Board recommendation and can take into account wider considerations than whether the public. One is "maintaining public confidence in the

criminal justice system.

The Parole Board suggestion provoked fury from the parents of children who were killed by Hindley and her lover, Ian Brady. They were jailed for life in 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Dow-ney and Edward Evans. In 1987 Hindley confessed to her role in the killings of Pauline Reade and Keith Bennett.

It was this confession which caused Lord Waddington, when Home Secretary in 1990, to order her to remain in prison for the rest of her life.

Yesterday Ann West, the mother of Lesley Anne, said she was disgusted by the recommendation. I was satisfied with her imprisonment in Durham but this new recommendation is devastating,"

Hindley has tortured me for the last 31 years and she should stay behind bars under lock and key. She is an evil and calculating woman and I'm sure she will try and escape from an open prison." Winnie Johnson, the mother

of Keith Bennett, who went missing aged 12 in June 1964 and whose body was never found, said she believed Hindley would attempt to escape from an open prison: "She will do her best to escape and when she does I will follow her and torture her like she tortured the children she

Anyone who can believe she would not kill again if she got the chance must be an idiot."



Village pays tribute to firemen

By A STAFF REPORTER

FIREFIGHTERS and villagers lined the streets of Blaina, Gwent, yesterday to pay tribute to two firemen who died in a blazing house last week.

The coffins of Kevin Lane. 32, and Stephen Griffin, 42, were carried on two fire tenders decked with wreaths. Mr Lane's son David, 8,

travelled in the front seat. At the service Mr Griffin's daughter Tina, 17, sang the pop song Eternal Flame.

Later Andrew Griffin, 20, and David Lane were given their fathers yellow helmets.
At Blaina cemetery the
Welsh dragon flags that had

covered the men's coffins were given to their widows. Margaret Griffin and Sian Lane. The two firemen were. then laid to rest side by side. The funeral procession

passed within 200 yards of the charred council house where the part-time firemen died last week. They had rescued Dan-iel Harford, 5, and went back into a house after wrongly

being told another child was trapped. Daniel died later. The men are to be nominated for bravery awards.

The supermarket blaze in which the firefighter Fleur Lombard died on Sunday was started deliberately, police said yesterday. Detectives were questioning a 20 year old security guard at the Leo's store at Staple Hill, Bristol.

About 500 members of for bravery awards.

About 500 members of Avon Fire Brigade are expected at the funeral of Miss Lombard, 21, in Derby Cathe dral on Toesday

Minister backed on probation training

AURISEUS HE

The High Court has backed the Home Secretary's move to scrap the need for trainee probation officers to have a social work qualification. The probation officers trade union had claimed that Michael Howard had abused his powers by ending the requirement

But two judges ruled that he had acted within his discretion when he decided that a social work diploma or similar qualification was no longer appro-priate and instead recruits should train "on the job". Mr Howard will now push ahead with attempts to recruit more mature entrants, including retired members of the Forces, into the Probation Service.

Leave to appeal was refused, and the union was ordered to pay Mr Howard's

Spending limit

A plan to cap public spending and eliminate the threat of emergency tax increases was put forward last night by a former Cabinet minister. John Patten, Education Secretary from 1992-94, said that by law the State should not be able to spend more than 40 per cent of national income. John Major has said he would like to get spending down to 35 per cent of gross domestic product.

Witness appeal

Police are appealing for wit-nesses after a 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death in a McDonald's restaurant. Daniel Westmacott, of Edmonton, north London, was attacked by a group of youths on Thursday after an altercation at the restaurant in Edmonton between him and three teen-agers. Daniel was stabbed in the back with a seven-inch carving knife.

Fatal blunder

Rupert Joslin, 36, is considering legal action against Wycombe General Hospital.
Buckinghamshire, after it admitted responsibility for the death of his wife, Violet, 85.

Mr Jostin, of Marlow, gave his wife twice the recommended dose of the drug warfarin on a hospital rechnician's instrucdeath was recorded at an

Scott hits back

Sir Richard Scott today de fends his arms-to-Iraq inquiry, denying that it was either unfair or aggressive. "I don't think there is any argument to support the unfairness charge," he says in an inter-view with The Times. He adonowledges that ministers were put under pressure in giving evidence in public but says that it was justified. Valerie Grove, page 6

CORRECTION

4.01

A photograph yesterday of Mrs Ann Fidler was incorrectly captioned in some editions. We apologise for the error.

Manchester misses its rain

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE crisis facing the nation's water supplies was underscored vesterday with news that Manchester, known as one of the rainiest cities in England, is now one of Europe's driest, ahead of Madrid and Athens.

Weathermen said the past ten months in the area had been the driest for 70 years. "in absolute terms. Majorca been the driest," the Manchester weather centre said. "But as a proportion. Manchester has been the driest in Western Europe, with 50

per cent of its normal rainfall. Most parts of Europe have had 80 to 90 per cent of their normal rainfall."

The centre added that the winter had been unseasonally dry because cold easterlies had pushed the usual rainbearing Atlantic weather fronts north and south of the British Isles. This was one of the reasons why Spain had had such bad weather.

The findings, which under-line how the past year has seen Britain's weather patterns turn upside-down, making the North drier than the South. came as North West Water announced a £75 million programme to preserve supplies.

The anti-drought schemes include 34 projects to guarantee supplies to towns in east Lancashire and east and south of Manchester, where local reservoirs have emptied, and 26 projects to provide an extra 105 million litres of water a day by increased abstraction

from boreholes and upgrading treatment works. Parts of Scotland, Wales and the North of England face the threat of flooding this weekend as rising tempera-tures begin a rapid thaw of ice and snow. The far north of Scotland will by battered by gales and driving sleet.

Major says status of EMU test is unclear the British and other Euro-By NICHOLAS WOOD

AND JUL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR has admitted that the status of one of the key tests for a 1998 go-ahead for a single currency is unclear.
The Prime Minister's com-

ment came in a letter to Peter Shore, the former Labour Cabinet minister, who has been pressing the Government to concede that the effective collapse of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism has wrecked the legal basis for economic and monetary union.

Last night Mr Shore said

the European Commission, showed that Britain can veto a move to a single currency. Any future government should not hesitate to use that weapon and halt the "damaging and misconceived plan for EMU, he said.

Mr Major said in his letter this week that the "exact status? of the ERM test was unclear, given the upheavals since the Maastricht signing.

mess and a moddle" over a

single currency. His ex-changes with Mr Major and Jacques Samer. President of

